

MAGAZINE



SPRING 2012

THE LEE FAMILY LEADS BY EXAMPLE

GENERATIONS OF SUCCESS

+ You: The Stats on Our Grads | Rice & Augmon: Runnin' Again | Toning Shoes: Fitness Myth?



Mendenhall Center

The new practice facility for the Runnin' Rebels opened this spring. Attached to the south side of Cox Pavilion, the facility has two basketball courts, a film room, locker rooms, and athletic training and academic areas. The facility provides a dedicated weight room for men's and women's basketball and volleyball as well as easier access to the practice courts in the Cox Pavilion and Thomas & Mack Center. The facility was built entirely through private donations. [Photo by R. Marsh Starks]

UNLV MAGAZINE

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Generations of Success

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ON THE COVER

The Lee Family, from left: Ernest, Graham, Doris, Theodore, Dana, Katie, and Greg [Photo by Aaron Mayes]

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For the city and state, a critical part of our future

The past few years have been hard for Nevada and Nevadans. All of us have experienced the impacts of the recession

and budget cuts, and we have struggled to keep things moving forward. Despite the hard times, I have been impressed with the resilience and strength of our community. Las Vegas is a city built on dreams and hard work, and the entrepreneurial heartbeat of our city is alive and well.

As the city looks up and asks, "What's next?" the connections between UNLV and our community have never been stronger. UNLV has been working hard to help put together the governor's vision for a more diversified economy, supporting the downtown renaissance that has seen the emergence of Zappos, and the Ruvo and Smith centers, and launching innovative educational programs to better prepare our students for a new economy.

Las Vegas and Nevada increasingly see a strong UNLV as a critical part of our future and understand that this is the right time to invest in our young university. The most tangible evidence of this is the generosity of a distinguished Nevada family that decided to invest in the university's future by making a very special gift. The generosity of the Lee family is having an immediate impact in our community and the region, transforming the College of Business into the Lee Business School.

Through this gift, the school can offer premium scholarships to attract the brightest students, recruit trailblazing faculty, and create the Lee Thought Leaders Lecture Series and the Lee Visiting Professors program, which will bring business visionaries to Las

Vegas (see Page 22 for more information about the Lees, their gift, and their dream).

Members of the Lee family, known for their

ability to recognize opportunity early and seize it, made this gift as a show of faith.

Like the Lees, we can see beyond our short-term difficulties to the promise of the future.

We are now on more stable financial ground with a sustainable budget. The Lee family's gift is one reason we can say this with confidence. There are other reasons as well. We have been prudent and strategic, investing limited resources well, and we are starting to

see the returns on our investments.

- Our focus on discovery and entrepreneurship is leading to greater economic diversification and the creation of new businesses (see Page 26).
- Our partnership with the Brookings Institution has expanded, enhancing our reputation and impact at the local, regional, and national levels.
- Our academic focus has improved as we identify our strengths and ensure that they are supported.
- Other angel investors are stepping up, making it possible to retain and recruit outstanding faculty.

We have fought through this crisis and together we are rebuilding our city and our university into something more — more focused, more responsive, and more impactful.

Take a look through these pages at our university. Our students are building the future and our graduates are making a difference. Renewed hope can be found in every success.

— Neal Smatresk, UNLV president



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UNLV

The Power... Gives Back

Alex Gill came for a degree. He left with a new nickname — and sense of purpose. Now the “Humanitarian Cowboy” is ready to serve his hometown as a doctor, one who understands what it means to give back.

**That's the power of
higher education.**



See the Power of Higher education in action
go.unlv.edu/videos/power



Alex Gill
“Humanitarian Cowboy”

THE Flashlight

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
.....

The Tool

The Terciopelo Cave, Barra Honda National Park, Costa Rica

The User

Geoscience professor Matthew Lachniet

Picture those craggy mounds protruding from the floor and dripping from the ceiling of caves. They hold evidence of rainfall, of climate change, and of when humans altered our environments. “Cave deposits grow like tree rings, adding a little bit of rock every year,” Lachniet says. He drills out samples to analyze the naturally occurring stable isotope ratios — or in layperson’s terms, the oxygen and carbon levels. It’s a key to understanding the limits of natural climate change. “One of the biggest misconceptions about climate change is that humans have

had nothing to do with it. But we can show scientifically that that’s not true.”

He’s planning his next caving trip to “the middle of nowhere, which is where caves always seem to be,” in either central Nevada or Mexico. Funding comes from *National Geographic* and the National Science Foundation, and his research team includes a graduate student or two. “We always go in with three light sources, with a group of usually three to six people, and experienced guides,” Lachniet says. “This is an occupation that can be incredibly dangerous.”

QUICK TAKE

Jake Thompson

director of debate

UNLV's Sanford I. Berman Debate Team reasoned its way into the top 10 among varsity teams in the National Debate Tournament rankings. The accomplishment is especially notable considering the team was resurrected just five years ago, when communication studies professor Jake Thompson joined UNLV.

How to win a debate: *First, always recognize that there's some truth on the other side and account for that. Second, the best evidence will make the best argument. So the third thing is to do your background research; 95 percent of debates are won before the debate even starts.*

Misconceptions: *When I tell people what I do, they always say, "Oh, it must be difficult for your wife." Those people either are not married or don't know how marriages work. Articulating an argument in a competitive debate is very different from in a marriage — most notably, a debate is not "til death do us part."*

Getting hyped for matches: *I recite lines from speeches. Gen. (George) Patton's famous, and semi-profane, speech to troops before World War II is my favorite.*

Best debater in politics today: *It's a tie. President Obama is incredibly intelligent and articulate on policy issues. I've also been impressed by Newt Gingrich's performances in the Republican primary debates. His formal training set him apart.*

Proudest moment: *When we qualified for nationals for the first time three years ago. It's like making the NCAA championship in basketball. I think our teams prove that it doesn't take expensive private-school education to be among the elite. Our top team has two kids who went to public school in Henderson. At our last regular-season debate, they beat a team from Harvard in the first round.*

That top team of Michael Eisenstadt and Stefan Menese won first in the district competition in February with an undefeated record. They also took individual first- and second-place honors respectively. Also qualifying for the national competition in early April is the team of Christian Bato and Alex Velto. They qualified by beating a University of Southern California team in a tie-breaker.

**100,000 AND COUNTING**

Emily Tamadonfar received UNLV's 100,000th degree at winter commencement. She graduated with a perfect GPA in biology and was one of five outstanding graduates.

The Las Vegas native practically grew up on campus (her father has taught political science here for 25 years). The high school valedictorian chose UNLV because of the opportunities it offers in research. "I was actually able to be a part of the research process and not just wash test tubes," she said. "The personal interaction at UNLV is something you don't

get at other big-name universities."

Through an honor society, Tamadonfar volunteered with Opportunity Village and with Chemical Interactions, a club that brings science experiments to elementary schools. "It is important to really know your community and to get involved," Tamadonfar said. "Part of education is learning how to be civic minded."

The Honors College graduate ranked in the top 5 percent in the nation on the American Chemical Society Standardized Test in organic chemistry. Her next challenge will be medical school.

DON'T MISS IT**Oh, The French**

"Pasteurizing French Politics: The Transformation of the French Presidency and the Election of 2012," a University Forum talk, will analyze the role of party coalitions and how the dividing lines in recent years have not been left-right so much as center-extremes. Barrick Museum Auditorium.

Gaga Girls

Black Mountain Institute presents a reading with Lara Glenum, a Fulbright fellow and the author of *The Hounds of No* and *Maximum Gaga*. Her writing pushes the boundaries of gender politics and poetics through the use of the sublime and the bizarre. She is also the co-editor of the anthology *Gurlesque*, which reimagines a feminist aesthetic that blurs the boundaries between femininity, burlesque, and the grotesque.

Come Together

Festival of Communities celebrates the rich cultural diversity of UNLV and the Las Vegas Valley. The event has grown from a small student event to a communitywide festival attracting more than 7,000 people to campus. Load up the kids and come down for food, crafts, and a full slate of performances.

More: For details on these events and a full listing of activities, visit go.unlv.edu/calendar.



Infectious Learning

Lecture leads to dramatic diagnosis for an ailing grandfather 1,300 miles away

A lecture kept resonating in Joy Immak's head as she talked with her grandmother. A few days before Christmas, Immak's grandmother called to say her grandfather might be suffering from colitis once again.

But Immak's gut was telling her that it was more serious. She suspected a nasty infection she had just learned about in professor Helen Wing's Biology 464 (Bacterial Pathogenesis) class.

The class focuses on how bacteria cause disease and how the body is built to defend pathogens. It also examines the nasty bugs currently in the headlines, and *Clostridium difficile* (C. difficile) was one of them.

Immak, a microbiology major, is close to her grandparents, who live in New Boston,

a small town in east Texas. Their primary access to health care is a small clinic run by a registered nurse.

With Immak's prompting, her grandmother looked up C. difficile and realized its symptoms — fever, lethargy, severe abdominal pain, and frequent diarrhea — were an exact match to the ailing grandfather's. She wrote the name of the bacterium down and showed it to the clinic's nurse, asking if it could be the culprit. Immak's grandmother said the nurse's eyes opened wide and her grandfather was immediately taken to the nearest hospital. He was given an antibiotic that specifically targets the infection. He was in the hospital for nearly a week. Although not common, C. difficile can lead to sepsis or a perforation in the intestines.

The bacterium only grows in environments without oxygen, such as the lower intestine, where it germinates and can divide

very rapidly if the "good" bacteria has been eliminated by using antibiotics, Wing said.

"Most people are thought to carry C. difficile, but it only causes problems in individuals who already are weakened by a bacterial infection who have been taking antibiotics," said Wing. "Some antibiotics wipe out the problem bacteria but also wipe out the other bacteria that help to protect our bodies. What we end up with is *Clostridium difficile* in the right environment for growth with no bacterial competitors. Under these conditions it takes over and produces some really nasty toxins that damage our intestines."

Immak deflects credit for saving her grandfather's life to her grandmother and Wing, saying she was just the person in the middle. But Wing sees it differently. "Joy is a very smart young woman, and it is neat to see how her education is already being put to use," said Wing. "As an educator, you try and make a difference, and this is what you hope happens."

—SHANE BEVELL

A Daughter's Crusade

Public health student finding ways to improve treatment for patients with disabilities

The breaking point for Jenny Pharr came the day a doctor examined her dad in his wheelchair. A rare condition had left him a paraplegic when Pharr was young, so she witnessed the everyday challenges he faced just entering a hotel room. Several years ago he developed a pressure sore, a common problem for people who use wheelchairs. Because his primary care doctor didn't have a table accessible for disabled patients, he couldn't conduct a full exam.

"It was unacceptable," Pharr said. "My mom just kept saying 'Why doesn't anyone do anything about this?' And it made me say, 'Yes, why? Why do these barriers exist that limit access to people with disabilities?'"

Her father's health already had propelled her into health care. She worked her way up to become a top administrator at a large cardio clinic in Southern Nevada. Pharr received degrees in nutrition, exercise physiology, and business administration, all in an attempt to improve the quality of her patients' lives.

But in 2009, 15 years into her career, she decided that working from within the system to change attitudes wasn't enough.

"I wanted to make sure that patients like my

father and other disadvantaged patients could find a voice in the health care system and understand the facilities and treatments that should be made available to them," Pharr said.

In May, she will receive UNLV's first doctorate in public health from the School of Community Health Sciences. Her dissertation explored the availability of medical equipment for persons with disabilities. She found most were unaware of the equipment available and nearly all lacked formal training in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandates that medical facilities provide such equipment.

Because of the lack of proper equipment, people with disabilities are less likely than the general population to have their teeth cleaned, to have height and weight checks, or to have regular gynecological exams and breast cancer screenings.

Not providing proper equipment also is harmful for healthcare workers, whose most common on-the-job injury is back injuries caused by trying to lift patients.

Pharr plans to teach public health at the university level and continue research on underserved populations such as the unemployed; gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people; those with mental health issues; and other minority populations.

—MEGAN DOWNS

Discover the Campus

West Prep Academy is only 10 miles from the UNLV campus, but for many students the distance seems worlds away — so far away that the possibility of attending college doesn't even enter their minds. The FBI Las Vegas Citizens Academy Alumni Association wanted to change that. What better way to show kids what's attainable than to sponsor a field trip to a real college, thought the association's president, Tim Wong.

As a longtime UNLV donor, Wong already was familiar with the campus, and he reached out to the UNLV Foundation and the admissions office for help. The campus tours program adapted its usual presentation for prospective college students for the more youthful audience.

For community groups, the guides point out public resources, such as the libraries, Xeric Garden, and arts facilities. The West Prep fifth-graders were excited about the residence halls and about eating the endless desserts in the dining commons, Wong said. The letters he received afterwards confirmed that the tour reinforced his message. Jayla Alexis wrote, "Before this trip ... I thought that I (could) make a living on having a part-time job at Walmart or something. Now I want to go to an actual college."

More: UNLV campus tours are free and offered most weeks Monday through Saturday. Customized versions are available by arrangement. 702-774-8658 or campustours.unlv.edu.



DON'T MISS IT

Thought Leader

The Barrick Lecture series presents Steve Forbes, chairman and editor-in-chief

Apr 25

of Forbes Media. He writes editorials for each issue of *Forbes* under the heading of "Fact and Comment." In both 1996 and 2000, he campaigned vigorously for the Republican nomination for the presidency. He is also the author of several books on markets, finance, and governance

Burning Down the Town

"Burning Man: A Temporary and Enduring Home" is a multimedia presentation

Apr 26

on the arts self-expression festival that draws 50,000 people to Black Rock City each summer. The city is purpose-built each year and dismantled immediately following the event, returning the Nevada playa to its vast emptiness. Barrick Museum Auditorium.

Such a Farce

Nevada Conservatory Theatre and the UNLV theatre department present "A

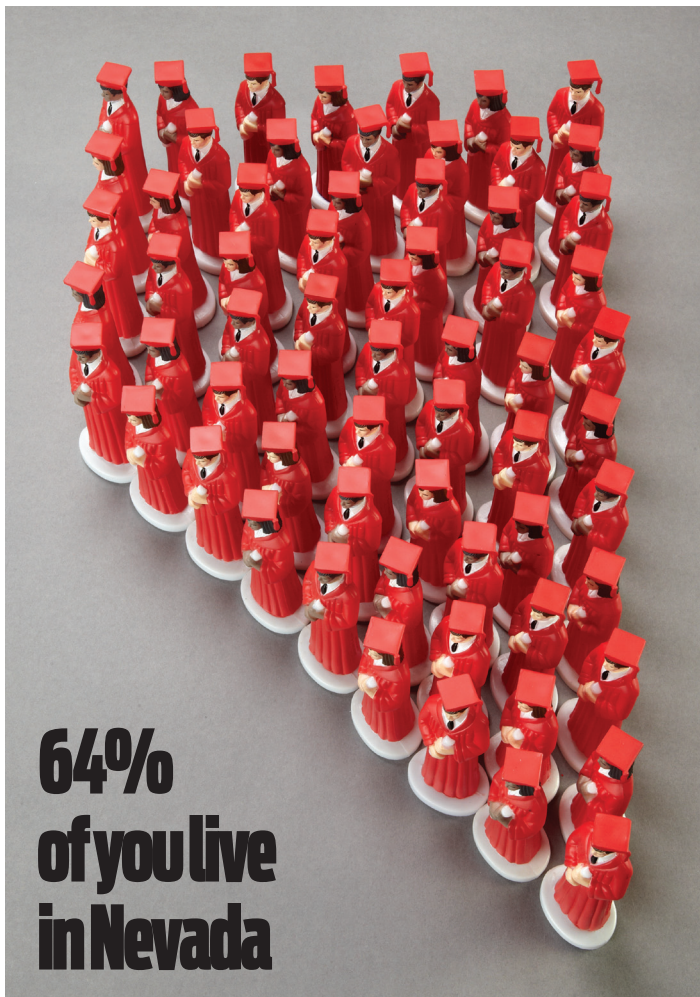
Apr 27

Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." Puns, slamming doors, mistaken identities, and satirical comment on social class highlight this bawdy musical. Judy Bayley Theatre.

More: For details on these events and a full listing of activities, visit go.unlv.edu/calendar.

YOU

A few statistics about UNLV's graduates



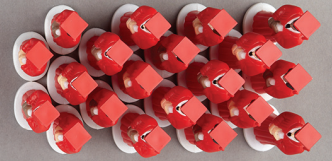
64%
of you live
in Nevada

A Young Bunch

*Remaining 7 percent are unknown age

Age
20-29

20%



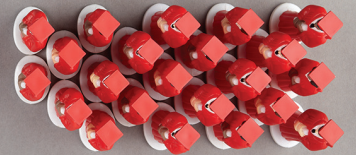
Age
30-39

31%



Age
40-49

22%



Age
50-59

12%



Age
60+

8%



Our nearly 90,000 graduates have acquired a total of 101,747 degrees.

56% are women

44% are men



NOW FOLLOWING



@unlvtsid

Andy Grossman
assistant athletic director for media relations/communications



Shawn Marion's ring. I said "Cuban hooked you guys up." He said, "nope, we hooked him up!" [Feb. 14]



@coachcollier

Caitlyn Collier
associate women's basketball coach

Watching NBA game... reluctantly. Clipper guy just yawned in huddle as Vinnie D is intensely drawing up key play. What's up with the NBA? [Feb. 8]

On the other hand, just saw Gavin Maloof in security line at airport last week and chatted about his Kings. Always cheering for Sacramento. [Feb. 8]



@ANT_MARZ3

Anthony Marshall
Junior Runnin' Rebels guard

The best players have the shortest memories. Good or bad. Never let your highs get too high or your lows too low! [March 15, after the first round loss in the NCAA tournament]

Plus:

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@UNLVRebelGirls,
@UNLVRebelSoccer,
@UNLVSoftball,
@UNLVtickets



Runnin' Again

Former Rebels reunite to bring fast-paced pressure back to the UNLV hoops

BY WILLIAM C. RHODEN

Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from The New York Times, Jan. 22.

The scene was eerily familiar: a Runnin' Rebels basketball practice, and here was Stacey Augmon, posting up and playing defense, and there was Dave Rice, watching.

Two decades ago, Augmon was a mainstay of one of the most explosive teams in college basketball, the 1990 national champion team. On game day Rice sat between assistants on the Runnin' Rebels' bench and watched. His playing time was limited to a few minutes at the end of blowouts.

Today Rice is finishing his first year as UNLV's coach; Augmon is in his first year as an assistant. Their joint mission is to continue restoring Runnin' Rebels basketball to its past glory.

Without the baggage.

With Jerry Tarkanian as the coach, the Rebels became the most polarizing team in college basketball and the hottest ticket in Las Vegas. UNLV won the 1990 national title with a core of juniors: Augmon, Larry Johnson, and Greg Anthony. UNLV was undefeated the following season before losing to Duke in the Final Four.

This season UNLV has sent a message that the fast-paced, full-court-pressure style that distinguished the

its championship teams is on the way back.

"I've always felt fortunate as a player and a coach to be part of college athletics and to be able to feel like I can make a difference with young people," Rice said last week. "To be able to do that at my alma mater is a very special feeling."

Tarkanian's UNLV teams represented the best and the worst of big-time college basketball. At its best, UNLV was a collection of talented players who used ferocious pressure defense to create transition offense. With Augmon, Johnson, Anthony, and Anderson Hunt, UNLV adopted a selfless approach that culminated with a record-setting 30-point victory over Duke in the 1990 championship game.

At its worst, UNLV — more specifically, Tarkanian — became embroiled in a war with the NCAA in which reputations of players, and Tarkanian, became collateral damage.

UNLV under Tarkanian became known as a program that offered second and third chances to talented players. Most panned out, but there were enough high-profile mishaps to cast aspersions on Tarkanian's motives.

"There were some disappointments, but the majority of guys who came here really capitalized on the opportunity," Augmon said. "Not just in basketball but in life. I hope we continue to be a place where guys can get a second chance."

Rice spent 11 years as a UNLV assistant but was not retained when Lon Kruger was hired in 2004. He spent one season at Utah State, then six at Brigham Young, where he coached Jimmer Fredette in a high-scoring offense that was antithetic to the pressure defensive style he would use at UNLV.

After Tarkanian's forced retirement in 1992, UNLV faltered under a succession of coaches. Kruger, employing a slowdown style, led UNLV to the NCAA tournament in four of his last five seasons.

When Kruger left for Oklahoma last year, Rice, a former Rhodes scholar candidate, was a unanimous choice as his replacement. His priority was to let former players know they were welcome back. The best way to do that was to get a former Rebel on the staff.

"In my mind Stacey Augmon is Mr. Rebel," Rice said. "You take a look at what he achieved on the court and as a teammate. Everyone knew he was a great player, but he was so committed to winning. He was so

committed to team.

"He did all of the intangibles: he guarded the other team's best player, made all the big plays, made the extra play, he just made everything O.K. To me, he was the perfect guy, if we could get him."

One problem: Augmon wanted nothing to do with UNLV because of the way Tarkanian had been treated.

After UNLV won the championship, Augmon, Johnson, and Anthony announced they were coming back as seniors, but because of past recruiting violations, "the NCAA said we would be ineligible to defend our title," Augmon said. When Tarkanian volunteered not to coach so the players could pursue another title, Augmon was the first to say that if Tarkanian did not coach, he would not play.

The NCAA penalties were delayed for a year and the Runnin' Rebels played in the 1991 Final Four, but after Tarkanian left UNLV, Augmon stayed away. "The only person I

in which he praises the team and takes an occasional swipe at the NCAA. And the Thomas & Mack's court was named for him in 2005.

"Me and Dave talk with coach all the time," Augmon said. "We just sit down and pick his brain."

What's fascinating is to observe Augmon's interaction with the players and their reaction to him. Many were not even born when UNLV won the championship, but they are familiar with Runnin' Rebels lore. Most important, they know he survived 15 seasons in the NBA — about three times the average playing career.

"In college they listen and they do what you tell them to do," Augmon said. "You tell them, 'You go here, you go there, you do this,' and if they don't, you sit them on the bench.

"In the NBA you tell Carmelo Anthony to go here or Chauncey Billups to go there — there's nothing you can do."

After an early season practice, Augmon

"In college they listen and they do what you tell them to do. You tell them, 'You go here, you go there, you do this,' and if they don't, you sit them on the bench. In the NBA you tell Carmelo Anthony to go here or Chauncey Billups to go there — there's nothing you can do."

— STACEY AUGMON

kept in contact with was Dave," Augmon said. "I know that the institution is larger than one person, but it was emotional at the time, and I was right there in the middle of it."

Rice eventually prevailed. He convinced Augmon it was time to come back. "That sent a strong message to everyone that we have a chance to do a good job here because Stacey has basically given his blessing, not only given his blessing but he's back," Rice said. The time was right for Augmon.

Augmon, 43, was an assistant on George Karl's Denver Nuggets bench for three seasons. That, coupled with 15 NBA seasons as a player, was too much time away from his five children, the oldest of whom is 17.

"The oldest was beginning to act out a little and I needed to be there," Augmon said. He also relished the idea of coming back and putting the bitter taste of Tarkanian's departure behind him.

Tarkanian, 81, is a now welcome presence and even writes a column in the *Las Vegas Sun*

was making a point and he looked around. The players were hanging on every word.

"It was a little weird at first, but I enjoy the communication," he said. "I think they respect the fact that where I've been is where some of them want to go. I can give them the benefit of my experiences."

The challenge for Rice and his staff as they begin a new era of UNLV basketball is to build out from under Tarkanian's shadow.

Rice wants his team to run like Tark's teams, wants it to defend like Tark's teams, wants to be a unifying force like those teams were before the battles with the NCAA became all-consuming. "I remember the championship parade my junior year," Rice said. "It was overwhelming, looking at thousands of people cheering. They weren't just fans; the entire community rallied around Runnin' Rebels basketball. That's what we want to try recapture. I think that people want that feeling again. That's what we want to build."

Without the baggage.



History professor Sue Fawn Chung released two new works this year on Chinese-Americans in the West.

Overturning Stereotypes

New work explores race relations in the multicultural cauldron of the rural West

BY DIANE RUSSELL

Anyone who has watched many movies or television shows dealing with Chinese laborers in the early days of the American West knows the story. The immigrants, whose work was essential to the development of the West, were ill-treated by their Caucasian bosses and counterparts — made to do backbreaking work and then subjected to bigotry and humiliation. At least that's the way it's often

been portrayed in both fiction and in historical research.

But, history professor Sue Fawn Chung found herself thinking, almost all that research has concentrated on race relations in the West's big cities. Was it the same in smaller, rural settlements?

That question came to Chung as she was doing some work for the U.S. Forest Service at an archeological dig of a Chinese mining site. It started her on a research path that led to the publication of *The Pursuit of Gold*.

Chung focused on the Nevada towns of Tuscarora, Island Mountain, and Gold Creek and on John Day, Ore. She combed through official records and interviewed descendants of the people who lived in the areas decades ago.

What she found was heartening: The prejudice and bigotry of the big cities wasn't the norm in the rural enclaves. "It had to be an isolated location" for prejudice to be absent, she notes. If a large city were nearby, the negative attitudes prevalent there tended to influence the people of the smaller towns.

One reason for the seeming harmony in the smaller settlements is easy to understand. The people needed each other to survive and thrive. People tended to be valued for what they could bring to the community rather than disliked because of where they or their parents were born, Chung says.

Many of the Chinese immigrants were exceptionally skilled in placer mining, for instance, and could build mammoth irrigation ditches. Some could even make the water run uphill. Their expertise was invaluable to mining companies, she says.

Caucasians who owned general stores often strongly influenced how Chinese immigrants were viewed in the community, she says. Storeowners typically were at the center of life in small towns; if they looked favorably upon the Chinese, their neighbors were likely to follow suit. She interviewed one Caucasian person whose family had raised and sold ducks, establishing a very congenial relationship with the Chinese in town.

In Island Mountain, Chung found information on a Caucasian family that socialized with a Chinese merchant and his roommate. The family would invite them to dinner, serving foods the family normally ate, but being sure to add rice to the menus for their guests. They forged a friendship that lasted 30 years or more and included the family taking their Chinese neighbor to the doctor when he became ill.

In John Day, Chung learned about a Chinese doctor, Ing Hay, who established a practice during the heyday of mining. When the townspeople fared unusually well during the flu pandemic of 1918, they credited their doctor and named a street, and eventually a museum after him. Hay's nephew had locked up the doctor's office after his death. The

property was donated to the city, but somehow that fact was forgotten over time. The city discovered it owned the building in the 1970s or 1980s and then opened it. "It was just like a time capsule," Chung says, noting that it was filled with pharmacy items from both the East and West.

Chung has written extensively about the Chinese in the American West during her more than 40 years as a historian, publishing numerous articles in refereed journals.

Her interest germinated in an undergraduate class at the University of California, Los Angeles. "The teacher was so engaging when he talked about China, and I thought, 'Here's a country that, basically, nobody knows about.'"

This was, after all, during the 1960s — a decade before President Richard Nixon made his historic journey to China, opening diplomatic relations between the two nations.

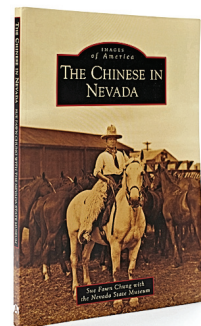
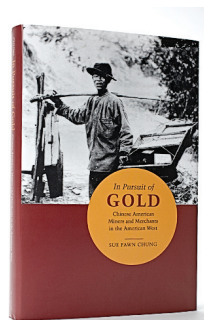
Chung also recently published *The Chinese in Nevada*, a collection of photos depicting Chinese immigrants and Chinese-Americans from roughly the 1860s to the present. It grew out of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant that came to Chung via Nevada Humanities. "I was curator for a photo exhibition that was displayed at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. It was well-received and even was written up in *Sunset* magazine," she says. The exhibition moved to Las Vegas and was updated as people donated new photos.

The photo book is part of the "Images of America" series. It includes portraits and family groupings as

well as images of towns and workplaces from the early 1900s.

Some of the photos are of people familiar to Las Vegas today. They include former university Regent Lilly Fong and businessman Richard Tam, both of whom have UNLV buildings named after them.

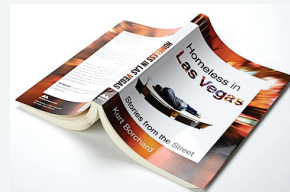
Chung, whose next work will deal with the impact the Chinese had on the lumber industry, says she hopes people who read her books will have a better understanding about what the American West really was like in its early days. "It was a multicultural caldron," Chung says. "It's time for people to recognize these other groups, such as the Chinese, and give them credit for what they did to help build the American West."



The Pursuit of Gold: Chinese American Miners in the American West
University of Illinois Press, 2011

The Chinese in Nevada
Arcadia Press, 2011

For his first novel, **Andrew Kiraly**, '98 BA English, '03 MFA, chose a topic he knows well — the life of a rock critic. But the longtime local writer and now editor of *Desert Companion*, differs from his protagonist. Unlike his fictional critic, Kiraly never became jaded enough to review music without listening to it first. The book also takes us into the lounge scene. "I've always been intrigued by these obscure, lame, cheesy lounge acts," Kiraly says. "How do they survive?" He is at work on a second novel about the fabled El Rancho, the first resort on the Strip. He doesn't expect the city to let him down when it comes to source material. "There is so much to write about here — the thematic chewiness of living in such a strange place."



Homeless in Las Vegas: Stories from the Street
University of Nevada Press, 2011

Kurt Borchard, '98 Ph.D. Sociology, tackles the topic of homelessness, something he explored in 2005's *The Word on the Street: Homeless Men in Las Vegas*. He now writes with the knowledge that the policies he had hoped to see have not come to pass. He found homelessness here has increased while conditions have worsened. This time he included women among the interviews, to counter the stereotype that homelessness affects only men. The resulting ethnography shows the diversity of their circumstances.

BRIEFLY
.....

Star Power

Bing Zhang burst into the pages of *Nature* with the first evidence of a star being swallowed by a supermassive black hole. The astrophysicist is part of NASA's international Swift team and an expert on the universe's most powerful explosions.

The team witnessed a cosmic event dubbed Swift J1644+57. Black holes with a gravitational field greater than stars can pull a star inward, destroying it and trapping its gases in a swirling disc surrounding the black hole. The spinning gases heat to millions of degrees and lead to the creation of high-powered jets of light and radiation. The Swift astrophysicists witnessed such jets and believe it was triggered by a star falling into a dormant black hole.

In a follow-up, Zhang and UNLV post-doctoral researcher Wei-Hua Lei worked with the data from the event — which occurred roughly 3.9 billion years ago — to infer the spin rate of the black hole. They found that the black hole is spinning rapidly, suggesting that its spin is the key to launching a star-swallowing jet.

Rockin' a pair of toning shoes?

They won't firm your bottom but they can help you get fit

BY SHANE BEVELL

A few years ago John Mercer was at a shoe store when his friend pulled a pair of Skechers Shape-ups from the shelf and asked, “Do these work?”

Mercer is the right guy to ask. The biomechanics professor has conducted research on what happens to muscles when people run in different shoes, at different speeds, on different surfaces, and even when they are fatigued. And he's been asked by a number of shoe companies to evaluate their products.

But Mercer didn't have an answer for his friend. The quick conversation piqued his interest enough to launch a new line of study. He found that the shoes don't live up to their advertising promise — but that doesn't mean you should ditch the pair in your closet.

Together with professors Janet Dufek and Troy Santo, Mercer compared three pairs of shoes: Skechers Shape-ups, which have a bowed, unstable bottom; regular flat-bottom shoes; and flat-bottom shoes with extra weight to equal the Shape-ups.

Mercer wanted to get a better sense of muscle activity and calories used (as an aside, he says “calories burned” isn't accurate) during walking. Santo strapped oxygen masks on the 28 student participants (17 women and 11 men) to determine how much they were breathing while walking.

“If we can measure the air going in and out of the lungs, we can figure out how much oxygen we are



using, and therefore how many calories we are using to complete the activity,” Mercer says.

Sensors on the legs of the subjects measured the electrical impulses in muscles as they contracted, similar to what an EKG measures for the heart.

The results surprised Mercer. There was no difference in oxygen consumption or muscle activity among the three types of shoes. Yet, participants reported that they walked differently in the Shape-ups. The reason, Mercer believes, is that humans are inherently lazy. We naturally find the easiest way to do something. “If we go out and walk across campus, we tend to choose an easy gait pattern. By changing shoes or even the surface we walk on, the brain tells the body to change the gait to keep it easy.”

So the study's subjects adjusted their gait until walking in the toning shoes was no more difficult than in normal shoes.

LOVE YOUR PAIR? KEEP WEARING THEM

Mercer notes that some people may still benefit from Shape-ups, such as those with foot problems like plantar fasciitis. The rocker bottom can take pressure off some parts of the gait cycle, and similar shoes are used often in rehab.

“Just don't buy a pair of shoes because you think you are going to use a bunch more calories or work muscles differently,” he says. “Don't buy a shoe based on color, brand, or advertising claims, because there is no magic to losing weight or making walking more enjoyable. You have to find a shoe that is comfortable.”

Walking a mile only uses about 100 calories but it is a low-impact activity so you can do it for a longer period of time. The key to using walking in an exercise program is that you have to want to go out



It's your attitude, not your shoes, that count the most in a successful exercise program, says biomechanics professor John Mercer.

and do it. If your goal is losing weight, Mercer suggests increasing your distance and walking at least 30 minutes a day.

"The bottom line is that if someone is not walking now but they buy Shape-ups or other toning

shoes as motivation to walk, then that is great. As Americans, we need to do a little more physical activity," Mercer says. "If you get them and lose some weight, don't credit shoes; it is the fortitude of the person doing the work."

BY THE NUMBERS

64% the share of Nevada's gross gaming revenue from slot play in 2010

500 the pace, in spins per hour, for the average player on a slot machine

10,000 virtual slot players used to conduct the study

27 years it would take for human players to carry out that same experiment

— From Harrah Hotel College study on slot machine play. It found very few players could detect small differences in the "house" advantage, which challenges a widely held industry belief and could change how companies make and market slot machines.

SAY AGAIN?

Understanding the titles of academic papers can be a challenge. We asked some recently published professors to help us translate.

MAKING MUSSELS IMPOTENT

"Sterile male release technique (SMRT) with irradiation as a potential novel method for attenuating invasive quagga mussels"

— Quagga mussels are invading Lake Mead by the trillions. Community Health Sciences professor David Wong is hoping to control the invasive species by using X-rays to sterilize male mussels.

BADWATER FOR BETTER BIOTECH

"A cultured greigite-producing magnetotactic bacterium in a novel group of sulfate reducing bacteria"

— Sciences professor Dennis Bazylinski became the first to identify, isolate and grow a new type of magnetic bacteria. The unique minerals in the bacteria, which he found in Death Valley's Badwater Basin, could lead to better drug delivery and medical imaging.

DO OVERWEIGHT KIDS WALK DIFFERENTLY?

"Effects of obesity on symmetry and spatio-temporal characteristics of adolescent gait"

— Health sciences professors tested whether obesity affects how kids walk in the same way it does adults. Researchers found it did have some effect on the speed, cadence and stance width in kids but didn't affect the symmetry between legs — a problem in adults. Next they will assess joint pain and degeneration.

Out of

Darkne

Securely stored in a vault on the opposite side of town sits the collection of the now-shuttered Las Vegas Art Museum (LVAM). Its closure in 2009 had banished the young but substantive collection to darkness.

Now, thanks to a new partnership with the College of Fine Arts, those works are no longer awaiting an unknown and undetermined future.

The LVAM had been the only local, public repository for work produced by artists who have lived or are now living in Las Vegas. And those works were donated by some of Las Vegas' storied citizens and generous collectors. It represents the development of the visual arts in Southern Nevada. It is especially notable for its works by UNLV graduates who have gone on to impressive careers.

The members of the museum board wanted to see the collection used as an educational tool at all levels and as a cultural resource. UNLV already has trained personnel with the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery and the Barrick Museum to document, install, and care for it. And the university's community outreach efforts would allow for works to be shown in venues throughout the city in addition to easily accessed locations on campus.

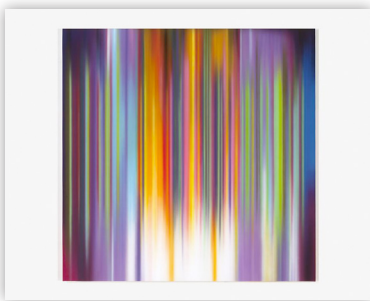
In December, the Marjorie Barrick Museum was moved into the College of Fine Arts. The timing couldn't be better. As part of the college, new life is being infused into the Barrick, and its programming will be done in tandem with the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery.

In the coming months look for a regeneration in the Barrick's offerings with exhibitions from the LVAM collection, contemporary art, and a refinement in the presentation of the Mannetta Braunstein Pre-Columbian artifacts, all of which will be presented in a reconfigured exhibit hall. The Barrick will be getting a new life and a new focus as it settles in as the new home of the LVAM collection.

An art museum is a vital component in a flourishing community. It functions as a place to experience the arts of a city, a place where school children can go for first-hand encounters with works of art, a place for residents to frequent, a place for tourists to visit, a place where all can be educated and uplifted.

— JERRY SCHEFCIK, DIRECTOR OF DONNA BEAM FINE ART GALLERY

A



B



C



D



E



UNLV Artists in the LVAM Collection

A

Tim Bavington, '99 MFA

"Chromophobes — people who hate and fear color — should steer clear of this optically ravishing exhibition."

— New York Times

Tracks from bands such as The Darkness, Oasis, and The Rolling Stones become vibrant bands of color in Bavington's works. His method designates sound to color and composition, but the paintings are not literal translations. Bavington's work has been exhibited widely and his works are included in the public collections across the country, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York. He recently branched out into large-scale sculpture with an 80-foot-long piece at the new Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas.

B

Philip Argent, '94 MFA

"Think of Argent's deliriously beautiful, subtly toxic paintings as the visual equivalent of computer viruses that scramble files in ways that make more sense than the originals."

— Los Angeles Times

Argent's hard-edged, abstract paintings have been exhibited at venues such as Deitch Projects in New York, the Henry Art Gallery in Seattle, and the Cranbrook Art Museum in Michigan, and internationally at galleries and museums in Berlin; Zurich; Turin, Italy; Tenerife, Spain; and Kwangju, South Korea. Two of his works are included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He is a lecturer at University of California, Santa Barbara.

C

Jane Callister, '94 MFA

"Jane Callister makes paintings that are about the act of painting, the consequences of the action, and the movement of paint itself."

— Pittsburgh CityPaper

Primarily a painter, Callister also incorporates sculpture and found objects into her works. Her work has been exhibited in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Texas as well as the First Prague Biennial, Czech Republic; Frankfurt Airfair, Germany; Jette Rudolf Gallery in Berlin; Anton Weller in Paris; Umea University, Sweden; and at the Cell, London. She is an art professor at the UC Santa Barbara.

D

David Ryan, '03 MFA

"Ryan's diabolically beautiful wall-relief is sculpture at its space-saving best: Bold enough to fill the whole room with its powerful pleasures yet compact enough to hang over the sofa."

— Los Angeles Times

Ryan gleans inspiration from the slick colors and lines of cars, electronic gadgets, and household appliances. His wall sculptures have been exhibited widely across the United States in addition to solo exhibitions in Paris, New York, Washington D.C., Dallas, and Los Angeles.

E

Victoria Reynolds, '93 MFA

"Reynolds' masterful precision in rendering raw flesh and viscera presents a close-up view of the undeniable life force that allows our existence."

— Art Ltd. magazine

Reynolds' paintings have drawn comparisons to the old masters of the still life. Her work has been shown at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, Calif.; Jones Center for Contemporary Art, Austin, Texas; The Jewish Museum of San Francisco; and at the Stockholm Art Fair in Sweden.

[MY THOUGHTS]



AS TOLD TO CATE WEEKS | PHOTO BY R. MARSH STARKS

For most young kids, Disney World is the place of dreams and wonder. Not for John Starkey. He vividly recalls watching a TV special on the happiest place on earth when he was 8 or 9. It crushed his spirit because he couldn't imagine ever escaping small-town poverty or breaking his family's cycle of addiction to make that trip. He's been there twice now and, with the support he found at UNLV, is taking on the fight for his life and inspiring others to get past their challenges.

DREAMING BIG

John Starkey, '10 BA Marketing, current Academic Success Center coach and graduate student in higher education

I always thought, when I was growing up, there wasn't much for me other than basic minimum wage jobs. I thought I'd end up doing something illegal. That I'd be another problem coming from my family.

I come from a small town in West Virginia. We were very, very poor. When I was born I was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. It's a lung disease that affects all the major organs.

My dad died when I was 4. My mother basically lived off his Social Security check and my disability check. Just knowing that set me up to be like, "I'm disabled. I have a lung disease that will keep me from doing things in life." Then she died when I was 11 of heart problems.

My older sister, from as long as I can remember, she's been addicted to drugs. When she became my guardian, I was put into the life of a drug addict. She overdosed twice in the two years I was living with her. She's now in jail, along with my uncle. It doesn't make you feel good about your future.

When I was younger, I never dreamed big.

Around the age of 13, I started living with random friends — couch surfing for weeks or months. I didn't want to be put in a foster home. I came across Grant Burton. He was not me. He was varsity basketball, voted best looking. I was rebellious and angry about my life. I dressed in black clothes. But he had an extra bed and invited me to stay. His family never asked me to leave.

Things started happening for me. People started mentioning college.

The aunt of one of my friends kind of kicked me in the ass. She heard my story and said, "Look at your options. You can get financial aid. You can leave your past." She suggested UNLV because the weather here could help my cystic fibrosis.

I fell in love with the campus. I moved into the Dayton Complex my freshman year. I started getting involved. Then I became a resident assistant. The experience of being an RA for someone like me who's had such a troubled past was so worthwhile because I did feel like I was in another family. I had an opportunity to care for 40 students each year, and I had a boss and co-workers who became my family.

The college experience is just one huge opportunity to create change. My entire childhood, I never knew that I could create that change.

I'm an academic success coach at UNLV. I work with students who are typically at risk. These students literally give me something to look forward to every day. I try to help them figure out their career path, figure out their passion. I try to help them learn the skills they need to be successful in college.

A lot of them have had troubled pasts and aren't sure if they can make it in college.

Web extra: John Starkey shared his story in a video for the university's Power of Higher Education campaign. Watch it at go.unlv.edu/videos.

I was that person. I've been provided so many opportunities in the university setting. I try to do for them what was done for me.

UNLV has given me some of the best mentors I have ever had. I took a diversity class from Doris Watson. It really helped me understand the culture of the disabled and the culture of people who come from low-income backgrounds. It helped me understand myself.

I'm starting to become an activist in a lot of ways. I'm trying to spread awareness about this disease and that it can be fought.

Now I can honestly say I am ready to take this on all by myself. I'm fighting this disease like I've never done before in my life.

It can be hard. CF patients have a horrendous time absorbing nutrients. I have to eat like 4,000 calories a day and I can't miss a breathing treatment. I take vitamins and several antibiotics and sinus pills. And CF males typically aren't able to have families. But I'm going to prove that wrong too.

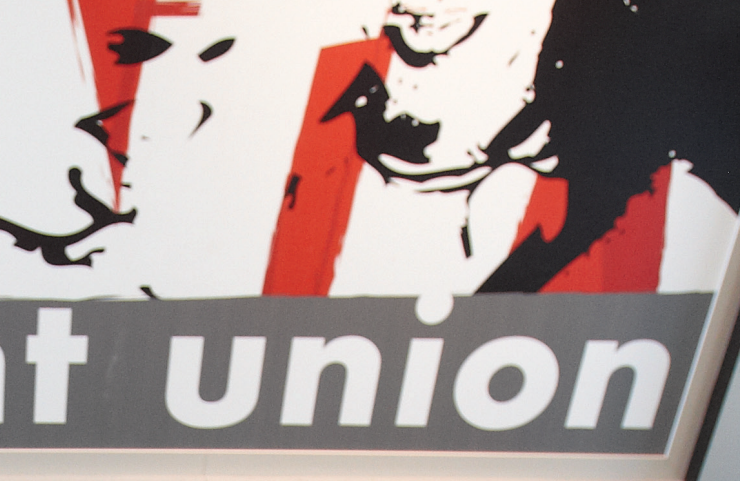
My life expectancy is 38. I'm very sure I'm going to make it extremely past that. I'm fighting this disease so I can give back as many ways as possible.

Going through the university, getting a bachelor's degree, has made me feel like I am pretty indestructible.

Popular Melting Pot

The Student Union on the first day of the fall semester reflects the diverse student population at UNLV. *U.S. News and World Report* recently named UNLV to its list of the most diverse colleges for undergraduates. We're 10th on the list, with nearly half of students reporting they are of a racial or ethnic minority. Hispanic students make up the largest minority undergraduate student group at close to 18 percent. The publication also ranked UNLV 12th on Most Popular Colleges list, behind Harvard, BYU, and Stanford. The ranking is based on the percentage of applicants accepted who end up enrolling. [Photo by R. Marsh Starks]





union

APPLY
CANDIDATE
THE 2011
SENATE ELECTION

INFORMATION

Information
Game Room
Meeting Rooms
Ballroom
Elevator



“My father used to say that education was the best investment a person could possibly make because no one can steal it from you and you can’t lose it.”

— Ted Lee

Generations of Success

BY LISA ARTH

To say that Ted and Doris Lee have lived fascinating lives doesn’t begin to tell the story. It is a story that spans the globe, from fathers who came to America with only the clothes on their backs to the next generation owning and operating casinos and multifaceted real estate investments and developments with property in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and California. It’s about two people with experience and accomplishments to fill several lifetimes. They met and built a family business around real estate and gaming.

In the fall, UNLV announced a gift from Ted and Doris Lee and the renaming of the College of Business to the Lee Business School. The \$15 million gift not only will shape the future of the school but also improve its national reputation, expand opportunities for current students, and promote community and alumni support.

TED’S STORY

Theodore “Ted” Lee grew up in Stockton, Calif. He participated in sports and worked for his father’s meat market every day after school.

Ted was accepted to Harvard and traveled there by train to save money, not realizing how difficult the trip could be. He only knew he would save a dollar for every hour he spent on the train, which he thought would be easy money. Instead it was one of the most difficult experiences he has ever had. He spent three and a half days sitting up because he would not use the vacant adjoining seat for which he had not paid.



(Top) Theodore "Ted" Lee adjusts grandson Graham Lee's tie as his wife, Doris, and granddaughter, Katie, wait for the family portrait. Also pictured on the cover are sons Ernest Lee and Greg Lee and his wife, Dana. (Right) Greg Lee speaks about his parents' dedication to the Las Vegas community. (Above) Beam Hall is home of the newly named Lee Business School.

The Lee Family Legacy

Like many young people away from home for the first time, he struggled to adjust to college. He admits, “I didn’t know how to study and didn’t even take notes. At the end of my sophomore year, I suddenly realized that I was lucky to have been able to stay in school. I decided that my last two years of college would be different, particularly if I wanted to have any chance to attend graduate school.”

After graduation from college, Ted was drafted into the U.S. Army. While cleaning latrines at the Nahbollenbach Quartermaster Headquarters in West Germany, he had the good fortune to be noticed by a first sergeant who said, “It is a pleasure to see someone

where he concluded that he could do more to help the disadvantaged at home than in a foreign country.

He started his real estate career by becoming a community organizer focused on urban renewal. His first urban renewal project was San Francisco’s Japantown, followed by nonprofit housing projects in minority communities in the California cities of San Francisco, Sacramento, and Stockton, which paved the way for a career in real estate development and investment.

He was retained by a prominent shopping center developer to advise him on urban redevelopment. While doing so, he learned about commercial shopping centers from a developer who was one of the best. After an unsuccessful attempt to build a law firm to serve this client, he became a real estate investor-developer himself.



The Lee family gift will enhance student and faculty recruitment at UNLV, says UNLV President Neal Smatresk (standing). “I commend the Lee family for their visionary thinking, and I am profoundly grateful for their faith in our university.”

who knows how to work.” That observation led to his obtaining his perfect Army job, which was traveling through West Germany and France inspecting quartermaster depots and facilities. He received a letter of commendation for recommending a way to better keep track of supplies. His suggestion was immediately adopted. He also spent a lot of time reading books that he had failed to read in college.

After leaving the Army, he attended law school at the University of California, Berkeley. He spent a year in Singapore studying law on a UC Berkeley International Legal Studies Fellowship and was the first American to become a member of the law faculty at the National University of Singapore. His first research project on taxation was published.

He then went into private law practice and helped start the East-West Center in Honolulu as an assistant to the vice chancellor.

He recognized a need for more education. “One of the reasons I went back to business school was that a prominent visiting professor at the East-West Center from Indiana University asked me to read a paper he had written that was to be published,” says Lee. “I suddenly felt that I was already obsolete because I struggled to understand what I was reading.”

Lee returned to UC Berkeley for his MBA, specializing in real estate and planning. While at Berkeley, he spent a few months as a consultant to a Rural Industrial Technical Assistance Project in northeast Brazil sponsored by the Agency for International Development

DORIS’ STORY

Born in San Francisco, Doris Shoong Lee grew up in Oakland. She graduated high school at 16 and attended UC Berkeley. After her freshman year, her father decided that the family should visit China and give Doris and her sister an opportunity to attend Lingnan University.

During their visit, war broke out when the Japanese attacked China. The family immediately had to find a way back to the United States from Hong Kong. “I remember thinking that we were lucky to be on that ship,” recalls Doris Lee. “It was the last ship out of China.”

Doris returned to the U.S. and continued college at Stanford. Several years later, her father turned over management of the National Dollar

Stores to a management team of which Doris was a senior member.

FATHERS KNOW BEST

Ted and Doris were both tremendously influenced by their fathers. Though Bo Lee and Joe Shoong never met, Bo admired Joe’s philanthropy and accomplishments. Both fathers immigrated to the United States as teenagers, not speaking English, and without money, jobs, or relatives. Both men started life without formal education. They worked hard, saved their money, and had reputations for honesty and integrity. Treating people fairly, being entrepreneurial, and having high expectations for yourself and others were important to both families.

Bo started life in America in San Francisco’s Chinatown, working two jobs. He moved to Sacramento, where he learned to be a butcher and eventually ended up in Stockton. As the town’s first butcher of Chinese ancestry, he opened three small grocery stores and meat markets. When he could no longer compete in the new business environment that existed following the end of World War II, three small real estate investments enabled him to retire at the early age of 48.

Joe Shoong immigrated to the U.S. around 1876 at the age of 18. He began working in a little store in Vallejo, Calif. After a few years, he made the decision to move the store to San Francisco, changing its name to the Dollar Store. In 1928, he launched the National Dollar Stores, expanding them eventually to 35 stores throughout Nevada,



\$15 MILLION GIFT BENEFITS BUSINESS SCHOOL

A \$15 million donation from the Ted and Doris Lee family will boost recruitment of top faculty and students while bringing top national business minds to campus for public lectures and executive education courses. "This is a transformational gift for us," said President Neal Smatresk. "It will create a legacy of excellence for our faculty and students."

To honor the gift, the university has changed the name of the business college to the Lee Business School. The donation will provide:

Lee Professorships: 10 endowed professor positions will be created in the next eight years to provide market-competitive packages to recruit top junior faculty in high-need areas. The professorships will be funded by a \$10 million endowment.

Lee Scholars Program: A scholarship program for high-achieving undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate financial need. Students will be eligible for one-time \$1,000 awards or renewable \$6,000 (undergraduate) and \$15,000 (graduate) awards. The awards will be funded by a \$2.5 million endowment.

Lee Thought Leader Lecture Series: Internationally recognized business leaders and innovators will discuss current issues and trends at biannual public lectures. A \$750,000 endowment will fund the lecture series.

Lee Visiting Professor Program: Prominent visiting scholars from various fields will lead intensive weeklong executive education courses for business leaders. A \$750,000 endowment will fund the program.

California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Texas, and Hawaii.

"[My father] tried to provide his employees with a good living and security. He wanted their families to go to college. If they couldn't afford it, my dad would help," says Doris Lee. "He ended up putting some of the children of his managers through college. They were part of his extended family."

Bo Lee advised his son at an early age that, whatever you do, do it well and look for ways to do it better. That even includes sweeping floors. It occurred to Ted that if he could do as well in real estate as his father, he should consider the possibility of real estate as a career.

LAS VEGAS

Ted and Doris met through a real estate investment. They were married in 1969. Two years later, after developing a few properties in the San Francisco area, they began investing in Las Vegas. "Everybody was wondering what the future of Las Vegas would be like," says Tee Lee. "We didn't have very much money, but we put what we had into Las Vegas real estate because of the city's potential for growth."

Doris' father had bought land in Las Vegas and built a National Dollar Store at what is now Las Vegas Boulevard and Fremont Street. Ted and Doris split their time between San Francisco and Las Vegas, and developed property in both places. They thought that Las Vegas offered the ideal environment for entrepreneurs.

In 1982, the family traveled around the world and planned for the future. The Lees try to obtain the highest and best use for their real estate and keep it as a long-term investment. They had avoided entering the casino business, as had their parents, but when they bought Friendly Fergies on Sahara Avenue, which had an unrestricted gaming license, they decided as a family, including their two sons, Greg and Ernest, to enter the gaming business. They became residents of Nevada and changed the name of the location to Eureka Casino.

A SON'S PERSPECTIVE

As their son, Greg, said during the announcement of the Lee Business School gift, "It's not every day that a son gets an opportunity to tell his parents how proud he is of them."

Greg Lee says that his parents taught perseverance and continuous improvement. If Greg struggled on his homework, his father would tell him that it was less important how his first effort turned out. His final effort is what counted. "There were always many drafts of everything," laughs Greg Lee. "Our parents had high expectations for us, causing us to have high expectations for ourselves. When my father would ask if this was the best that I could do, it only made me try harder to improve." Greg operates the family's second casino, Eureka Casino & Hotel in Mesquite, which opened in 1997.

GIVING BACK

For the Lees, it is important to be a part of the community and the culture where they live and do business. Ted and Doris support many community projects such as parks and recreation, intercollegiate athletics, and the arts. Their business focuses on offering value and personal respect.

Doris' father was a philanthropist who built a community center and a Chinese language school in Oakland, Calif., as well as a school in his family village in China. He established a scholarship at UC Berkeley and created the Shoong Foundation, a charitable organization.

Ted and Doris serve on boards of the schools that the family has attended. Doris supports art and culture. Greg serves on the UNLV Foundation board. The family supports the Problem Gambling Center, and Greg Lee serves on its board. "This gift is an investment in the future of Las Vegas and its university. It is also a way for our family to share our success with others," says Ted Lee. "The Lee Business School is the culmination of everything we've wanted to do." ■

NO IDEA TOO BIG OR SMALL

Kevin Hwang had an idea.

It was 2005, and Hwang was frustrated with the inability to track results for his furniture business's marketing efforts. Hwang wanted an advertising medium that was more transparent with its results, something that would give him instant feedback and allow him to quickly change an approach for better results.

"I thought there should be a way to provide a very specific matrix for how advertising is working," he says.

But Hwang was busy running a furniture

company. He didn't have the time or the expertise to execute the idea that nagged at him for years, not until he came to UNLV. Attracted to the Lee Business School entrepreneurship programs, he went back to school and made turning his journal full of ideas into a company his top priority.

He got his MBA and is now the owner of iAD Media. Its interactive "Bixby" kiosk located inside UNLV's student union helps local restaurant vendors boost sales with a unique voucher system while also promoting products and services of other area businesses. Its results can be measured quickly and accurately, just like Hwang had wanted.

He was hoping to see about 100 vouchers per day redeemed but most days sees between 200 and 300.

Hwang sold his furniture business to fund the company and is looking to expand around town and eventually to hundreds



of college campuses in North America. He says rubbing elbows during his MBA studies with all types of business owners was a crucial part of his degree.

"It's not really just about learning from the professor, but learning from your classmates who were successful business professionals in different industries. You get great insights into how our local economy works," he says. "These are things I wouldn't experience as an entrepreneur on my own."

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, OUR FUTURE

The message has been a constant for the past few years: Small business creation will eventually pull America out of its recessionary funk. For many years, entrepreneurs largely consisted of men in their 50s who, instead of retiring, took on consulting roles and became small business owners.



Coupled with rapidly advancing technology for the past two decades, entrepreneurship programs have been sprouting up at colleges around the nation, suggesting that small business creation will see a younger crowd going forward. Business school leaders say the university can help by developing more entrepreneurial minds. Those graduates can contribute to diversifying the economy with jobs in industries other than gaming.

"In this economy, we should not just be developing employees, but employers as well," says Rama Venkat, interim dean of the Howard Hughes College of Engineering.

UNLV's first entrepreneurship class was taught in 1997; the one class grew into a minor, then a major. Then an emphasis in the MBA program was added. Janet Runge taught that first class and helped establish the school's Center for Entrepreneurship in 2006.

"Entrepreneurship underpins everything,"

Runge says. "Art students better learn how to sell the pots they're (making)."

Frank Woodbeck, director of Las Vegas operations and workforce initiatives for the Nevada Commission on Economic Development, says these efforts are promising, but not surprising.

"(UNLV) has been the birthplace of innovation for the past five to 10 years, more so than anyone really knows," he says.

BREAKING DOWN SILOS

The Center for Entrepreneurship has helped build alliances with the private sector, putting graduates with business plans in touch with the money and experience needed to get them off the ground. With a new collaborative effort between the Lee Business School and the College of Engineering, more valley businesses are springing forth.

Alumnus and entrepreneur Kevin Hwang installed his company's first coupon-producing ad kiosk in the Student Union.

UNLV's engineering program is a deep well of innovation. Venkat oversees its senior design course, which requires graduating students to develop a product solution and build its prototype. The college's Fred and Harriet Cox Senior Design Competition awards \$15,000 in prizes for the top projects. Beyond the Cox family, the competition is attracting other local sponsors now, like Bally Technologies, Zappos.com, NV Energy, and engineering firm JT3.

"There are hundreds of thousands of problems out there, and our students are coming up with the solutions," Venkat adds.

But the dean admits the intellectual capital is the easy part of the equation. Teaching those bright minds to have an entrepreneurial streak is the real goal.

entrepreneurs

And that's where Andrew Hardin, head of the Center for Entrepreneurship, comes in. Hardin has seen amazing success from the business-engineering collaboration. Finalists in the 2011 and 2012 Southern Nevada Business Plan Competitions came from the collaboration. Several

Panel) is an invention by 19-year-old business student Nathan Turner, who has some computer coding skills to bring to his entrepreneurial streak. SNAP is a Web portal that serves as an academic advisor to help students get the information they need to choose majors.

Scuba Solutions resulted from the MBA students picking through the many new technologies coming out of the engineering program. The idea for a scuba tote won the \$20,000 first prize in the Governor's Cup competition. An LLC was formed and now owner Alex Strabala has expanded

"A LOT OF BUSINESS PEOPLE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY ARE INVOLVED IN THE UNIVERSITY — INVESTORS, INVESTMENT GROUPS, OTHER IMPORTANT LEADERS. IT HAS PLUGGED ME INTO A LOT OF THOSE CIRCLES." — JEAN BRIDGES, '09 MBA

also took honors in the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition.

Now, a \$500,000 donation has kick-started the Center for Entrepreneurship's first student-run venture capital fund to help start-up concepts coming out of the collaboration. In addition, the effort is now connecting the business and engineering students with law students to help develop patents for the ideas.

Two UNLV plans — for Geyser Flow Control and for SNAP — are in the running for top honors at the San Diego State University (SDSU) Venture Competition. "This is a very big deal for us," adds Hardin, explaining that the contest attracts such universities as Johns Hopkins, Brigham Young, Pepperdine, Florida, and UCLA.

Geyser Flow Control was developed by Las Vegas resident Peter Maksymec to reduce water pressure to sprinkler heads and to act as a water-saving mechanism in the event of a sprinkler failure. Maksymec sought out the university's help with market research and the creation of a business plan. The school is even testing the product with some of its own sprinkler systems, Maksymec notes. "They really have been a great help to me," he added.

SNAP (Student Navigation Advisor

MORE NEW SEEDS

Adam Jackson, 28, a Washington D.C. native, recently graduated with a master's degree in management information systems after also receiving a bachelor's in finance here.

He and a few other business and engineering students latched onto an idea they now explain as "OnStar for motorcycles," a vehicle-tracking device similar to the General Motors' product for cars.

The students formed Rebel Technology Associates and named the product the MAD (Motorcycle Accident Detection) Sensor. Jackson tweaked the product after attending motorcycle conferences to get feedback from riders. The idea won a \$10,000 second-place prize at the 2011 Governor's Cup competition.

"Last year when we were doing this, some were rather pessimistic, but once we built the business plan, we realized we have a viable idea," he says.

This year, Jackson, whose contest partners have gone onto other ventures, is hoping a final round finish in the Southern Nevada Business Plan Competition will provide the funds he needs to pursue a patent. After that, he'll be in talks with retailers, motorcycle manufacturers, and investors about selling the product and launching the company.

potential products to include a scuba strap. It is the result of a university student collaborating with a product developer in the community.

Strabala has sold his first 500 prototype straps and has a distributor lined up to help him sell others. He is also evaluating the best ways to market and mass-produce the straps.

While the tote concept that won the company its first prize in 2010 Governor's Cup may resurface, Hardin says the company's expansion speaks to the flexibility and determination Strabala has.

"I think it's great that he stuck with it and could see the potential in something else too," Hardin says.

Eighteen at Eighteen was the undergraduate category winner at the 2011 Governor's Cup. The concept involves selling 99-cent books through phone apps targeted to the 18-year-old crowd. They deliver professional content on business and health using hip phrasings in short chapters.

Anthony Alegrete, company founder, along with friend William Wong, who helped create the concept, refers to it as "The Dummies books without having to read 700 pages."

The first four books are written and Alegrete said the idea now has spawned "Pass Class," a study sheet app that covers the 18



Jean Bridges needed to get away.

She was ready to start a new venture — her own venture — but the daily demands of her finance career kept that goal out of reach. Then the Las Vegas native, who majored in English literature at UNLV, went back to get her MBA.

Her business idea was already percolating when she enrolled. The December 2009 graduate won third prize in the 2010 Governor's Cup business plan competition for a concept based on a healthy frozen dessert.

She is now the chief financial officer and chief operating officer

of Tiki Ice, which is sold locally in Whole Foods stores, at a stand in Town Square, and in 245 Albertons grocery stores in Southern California and Nevada. In total, Tiki Ice is sold in about 270 outlets today, and growing. Partner and CEO Robert Batemen came up with the idea from his Italian family's many years of making frozen desserts. A little tweaking of the recipe to appeal to the health-conscious consumer helped the concept pick up steam.

"A lot of business people within our community are involved in the university — investors, investment groups, other important leaders. It has plugged me into a lot of those circles," adds Bridges, who is now a regular guest speaker in business classes.

most important concepts or required reading chapters for a particular class at a university. Alegrete is working with a few professors to see how the app could help their students. "We're really looking to digitize the way people study," Alegrete adds.

EXPANDING TO ALL MAJORS

The new Global Entrepreneurship Experience (GEE) expands the Business School's reach to nonbusi-

ness majors. And it is emphasizing sustainability and taking business ideas around the world. The scholarship program, funded by Wells Fargo, allows high-achieving students from other majors to enhance their studies through a series of entrepreneurship classes.

GEE will accept its fourth cohort of students this fall. In the first year, students focus on creativity, then harnessing it into innovation. The second year focuses on

how to start a business; the third year on international entrepreneurship, which requires a spring break research trip to another country; and the fourth year involves sustainability and social entrepreneurship.

The ultimate goal is to keep the state's brightest students in state and groom them to become the next generation of entrepreneurs. As they build their businesses here, they will help diversify the state's economy. ■

[CLASS NOTES]

MOOD MUSIC

Allen Klevens

'96 BA Communication Studies

“There’s a lot of wonderful music that’s just terrible for a particular bus



M

ellow yodeling for a mountain spa retreat? Britney Spears cued up for the singer's photo-op at The Sugar Factory? A special playlist for Chinese New Year?

Allen Klevens, owner of Prescriptive Music, makes sure that what you hear when you walk into one of his clients' businesses sets the right mood.

Selecting that soundscape "is not about what the general manager likes

or thinks is good," Klevens says. "There's a lot of wonderful music that's just terrible for a particular business. It can kill an otherwise perfect presentation of your brand."

When Cheesecake Factory signed on, Klevens immediately ditched the string music that played at lunchtime: "It's sleepytime music." Through the corridors of the Flamingo, he replaced European lounge music with 70s and 80s throwbacks: "It's an iconic Las Vegas hotel; it needed the showgirl vibe." And Cut, a steakhouse at The Palazzo, called for classic rock, like the Doors: "It totally changes the experience of eating steak, and that's just what they were trying to achieve."

Klevens, a classical pianist, launched the business in 1999. He was working in a Beverly Hills piano store and happened to go to a medical convention with his father. A vendor was selling CDs of music for surgeons, and Klevens figured he could get his own music out that way. And he started targeting for the newly booming spa industry. "Spa employees were sick of hearing smooth jazz and Kenny G over and over again," he says.

A buyer for the posh Canyon Ranch Spa liked his music but hated his packaging. She asked him to rebrand the CDs under her company's name, and thus started Kleven's service of prescribing music for clients. Marriott became his first national account, and then he landed Wolfgang Puck restaurants. For Spago at The Forum Shoppes, he programmed John Lennon's "Imagine" to play on the hour as a nod to the painting of the same name that hangs in the dining room. (That painting is by UNLV graduate Tim Bavington; see page 30 for more on him.)

Now his company employs eight people and serves companies throughout the United States. As technology changed with the times, the CDs were replaced with systems Prescriptive Music can control from its Los Angeles headquarters. It allows the programmers to immediately adjust music when the vibe is off.

So what would he put into UNLV's own Student Union? "UNLV is a salad bowl. I would need to make sure it's not just one type of music. Rhianna would certainly be in there, but not all day long. I would put in some throwbacks, like Tony Bennett — because he's cool again and because he matters to Las Vegas. And I'd put in a lot of independent artists. College is about experiences, so you want students hanging out to discover what's new and what's going to be new next summer."

— CATE WEEKS

business. It can kill an otherwise perfect presentation of your brand."



Troy Gillett

'94 Bachelor of Fine Arts

ART IN HIS DNA

BY CATE WEEKS | PHOTOS BY R. MARSH STARKS

IN BITS OF RED AND WHITE AND BLUE, the twin towers spiraled up three stories in the lobby of the Lied Library. The installation is easily recognizable as a strand of DNA. Each layer along the double helix's backbone is built from a precisely folded T-shirt.

A decade ago, in the months following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, those shirts were left by the thousands under the faux skyline of the New York-New York Hotel Casino. Firemen, police officers, and military veterans from around the world came to Las Vegas for conventions and weekend getaways. They left tokens of remembrance — departmental T-shirts and ballcaps along with scrawled messages to loved ones. When the impromptu shrine began to overwhelm the resort's entrance, hotel officials asked UNLV Libraries' special collections department to preserve the mementos.

Troy Gillett gave them new purpose last fall. UNLV Libraries dean Patricia Iannuzzi wanted to bring attention to the unique archive through art and mentioned it to Gillett. Inspired, Gillett immediately put together a proposal and won the commission.

Gillett envisions the people represented by each shirt, those lost when planes smashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania. And he was moved by the individual act behind each token left behind. It was at once an intensely personal and communal act.

"One of the things we human beings have in common is our instinctive coming together in times of tragedy," Gillett says of his piece, titled "Common Threads." "We seem to connect with one another on a level that is beyond our conscious thought. We reach out to the dead, and find comfort in sharing the experience with another human being."

JUST TWO YEARS AGO, Gillett could not have envisioned himself landing such a commission and working alongside three student artists to install the massive piece. His art had long ago fallen by the wayside.

The Gillett family has been in construction for generations, and Troy spent summers working for his father's company in Calgary, Alberta. As he finished high school, a downturn in the Canadian building industry led to the company folding. "I resisted construction at first because of that. And, I loved art."

The family relocated to Nevada, just as the city's unprecedented growth began, and Gillett soon enrolled in UNLV, and he discovered printmaking. But when he graduated in 1994, he had little confidence as an artist. "I was just plain lost," he says. And Las Vegas was entering its big construction boom.

He took a job as a carpenter with J.A. Tiberti. He discovered that, like printmaking, carpentry immersed him in the process of creating something. He met his wife through work and later launched Gillett Construction in 2003 along with brother Darren, another Tiberti employee. Their projects include Simon restaurant at Palms Place, multiple projects at South Point Hotel Casino, and the Titanic exhibit at the Luxor.

Then the economy and Las Vegas' construction industry took a dive. Gillett Construction has continued to win projects, but not at the same clip that it had before the recession. Troy found himself with time and a growing desire to do something meaningful with it.

A random conversation with a family friend, a professor in Colorado, inspired him. "Maybe this is obvious to everyone else," Gillett says, "but he explained that the most economically vibrant, successful cities also have good higher education facilities backing them up. He helped me understand that without a successful university, our town would suffer."

He gave UNLV a call: What can I do?

THE UNLV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION had just reorganized its membership programs to place more emphasis on the relationships graduates formed through their majors. Association chapters, based around a college or major, give members

more opportunities to network with like-minded graduates, stay in touch with old professors, and volunteer in the classroom and at events.

Gillett remembered that feeling he had as a young artist. Outside some random sketching, he'd lost touch with his own art and wanted to encourage today's young artists to stick with it. He became a member of the College of Fine Arts Advisory Board, and soon fellow members encouraged him to start creating again himself. What could it hurt?

Within months, Gillett's art literally burst out, from the drawing and prints he made in college to three-dimensional sculptures. "Being a contractor, building and assembling things is not new to me. I think that's why I've gravitated to sculptural art."

By January 2010, he set the goal of completing one piece a month. He also enrolled in professor Emily Kennerk's sculpture class. "She gave me the best piece of advice: to trust my gut," he says. "I would get these ideas and after a period of time, start second-guessing or really revising. I had to trust that the initial idea was strong."

On his art website, he describes himself as a "low-brow conceptual artist and builder of things." And his work shows a fondness for puns and a slightly deviant sense of humor. One piece features a red Radio Flyer-style wagon. The wheels are cut down so it looks like it's sinking into the ground, perhaps stuck in the mud. Lying beside it is a taxidermied terrier named Paul. The piece is called "Paul's Wagon." Get it? His wag is gone. Paul literally is dead (and was abandoned by his owner at the taxidermist).

Then there's "Hard Pill," an oversized wooden Viagra pill, and "Soft Light," a 4-foot, foam and upholstered compact fluorescent lightbulb. "My wife rolls her eyes at the titles."

With other pieces, you can see strands of his construction industry background. The "Americana Povera" series transforms a wooden pallet and overlapping paint sample cards into a striking wall sculpture of a tree.

The Libraries' 9-11 piece took a scissor lift and about 100 hours for Gillett and the three students to install. The T-shirts had to be folded precisely

to work in the piece, and care was taken to ensure nothing was damaged. All of the items will be returned to the archives after the display comes down.

He is proud that the Libraries commission provided summer funding to the students — Marlene Sui, Kurt Chang, and Javier Sanchez. Along with physically helping Gillett bring his vision for the sculpture into reality, the students worked with library archivists to choose items from the collection to display in cases throughout the Libraries.

"I volunteered with the (College of Fine Arts) specifically because I wanted to help students," he says. "It's been a pretty gratifying experience. I really didn't expect that volunteering would help me (in turn) like this." ■



NOTES
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1970s

Henry Apfel, '70 BS Education, recently changed careers after 38 years in the corporate travel industry. He now works for HelmsBriscoe, the largest hotel and meeting venue-location company in the world. He has five children and four grandchildren. His youngest son serves in the U.S. Army and has been deployed to Afghanistan. He lives in Longwood, Fla.

Patrick Deeley, '71 BS Special Education, is retired after a career that included working as a keno writer, keno shift boss, and pit boss at the Sands Hotel & Casino and as a police officer in Chicago. He has served as a basketball referee for 43 years. He and his wife, Silke, have four children, Robert, Patricia, Joseph, and Alyssia, and four grandchildren, Anjelica, Hannah, Matthew, and Alayna. The couple lives in Leesburg, Ga.

Bruce Sames, '71 BA Sociology, recently retired as a vice president with JPMorgan Chase. He began his banking career with Bank of Las Vegas (Valley Bank of Nevada) in 1969 while still a UNLV student. After 11 years with Valley Bank, he relocated to Carmel, Calif. His hobbies include hiking, traveling, reading, and doing volunteer work. He now lives in Pacific Grove, Calif. His son is **Keith Sames**, '05 Film.

Herb Steege, '71 MBA, retired from Bank of America in January 2000. He had specialized in lending to the gaming industry. His volunteer activities include participation in the Clark County School District's Payback program, which encourages middle school students to stay in school and work toward attending college. He also coordinates the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace program at his church and provides financial guidance to church members.

Robert Lapp, '72 BS Hotel Administration, is a registered nurse in the operating room at Intermountain Medical Center in Salt Lake City. His hobby is building a 1965 Cobra replica. He is married and has two grown children, a daughter and a son.

Dale Wellman, '74 AS Radiology, '81 BS Allied Health Professions, '03 JD, is a radiographer at University Medical Center. He previously worked at Valley Hospital and Southwest Medical Associates. He also worked as a radiation protection technologist at the Nevada Test Site. His hobbies include target shooting, archery, self-defense practice, and reading.



Lapp, '72



Nolles, '76, '80



Deschaine, '82



Trivisonno, '82



Lee, '92



Kotek, '94

Niki Nolles, '76 BA and '80 MA English, teaches full-time at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colo. A faculty member there since 1992, she is chair of English, literature, and reading. In the 1990s she studied at the Shakespeare Institute. Her hobbies include attending plays, hiking, and traveling overseas. Recent destinations have included Mexico and England. Reading her favorite authors — including Mark Twain, Shakespeare, David Sedaris, and (thanks to UNLV Distinguished Professor **Darlene Unrue**) Henry James — is another pastime. She plans to retire to Las Vegas someday.

Randall Campanale, '77 BS Business Administration, is senior vice president and senior portfolio manager for Northern Trust.

Randy Dockter, '77 BS Physics, is a senior scientist and IT specialist with Intera Geosciences & Engineering. He also has worked as a scientist/programmer supporting weapons testing experiments at the Nevada Test Site; as an IT specialist working on Yucca Mountain; and as a scientist/programmer at Hanford. He is married with three children and two grandchildren. He lives in Richland, Wash.

Charles Doughty, '77 BS Mechanical Engineering, works with submarine control system embedded software and simulation software/hardware. He has started his own company, Rough Country Robotics, for robotic simulation software and mobile robots. His hobbies include computers, robots, and reading science fiction. He lives in Gales Ferry, Conn.

Michael Plyler, '77 BA American Studies, is the director of the Zion Canyon Field Institute for the Zion Natural History Association in Zion National Park. He also teaches photography courses for the institute. His third book with writer Logan Hebler, *Southern Paiute: A Portrait*, recently was published by Utah State University Press. He has

conducted photographic workshops across the United States, in Europe, and in Guatemala. He became a professional photographer following seven years working for the Clark County Fire Department. His hobbies include drinking wine, hiking, and woodworking ("not all at the same time"). He and his wife, Sandy Bell, live in Springdale, Utah.

Rick Dreschler, '78 MBA, was a bank manager in Nevada for 35 years. He last worked at Sunwest Bank as executive vice president. His hobbies include golf and traveling. He is married to **Ann Nissen Dreschler**, '78 BS Business Administration. They live in Henderson.

Jim Mikula, '78 BS Hotel Administration, was named managing director of the Hotel Madeline & Inn at Lost Creek in Telluride, Colo.

1980s

Dennis Luppens, '81 BS Education, has worked in public administration for California local governments since graduation. He lives in Santa Clarita.

David Patterson, '81 BS Hotel Administration, has worked as director of sales at the Palm Mountain Resort & Spa in downtown Palm Springs, Calif., for 10 years. His hobby is detailing his black 1993 BMW 325 convertible, which just passed the 200,000-mile mark. He and his wife, Madeline, have two dogs.

Christine Deschaine, '82 BS Business Administration, is a principal of Lee & Associates-LA North/Ventura, a full-service commercial real estate company. A retail specialist, she has more than 18 years' experience in tenant and landlord representation and has worked extensively in the area of urban redevelopment. She ranked among the company's Top 10 performers and was recognized in the President's Circle of Excellence in 2008. Among her many awards was

the 2010 Commercial Real Estate Award in the category of Landlord Representative-Restaurants by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. This year she won her company's Jack Cadillac Award for her commitment to volunteerism. In 2009 she traveled on a small medical boat on Brazil's Amazon River, assisting a team that provided dental extractions to people living in remote villages. More recently, she volunteered in Uganda. She worked with Bringing Hope to the Family, which is affiliated with Global Support Mission. She again worked with a dental team, this time assisting children who have been orphaned by violence or HIV/AIDS. She lives in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Joe Domina, '82 BS Hotel Administration, is a regional director of operations for Morrison Management Specialists. He lives in Westfield, Ind.

Christopher Gist, '82 BS Management Information Systems, is a senior IT customer support specialist with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. He works with desktop hardware and does software support in the field. Other jobs have included being a COBOL programmer, doing database and systems design and development, working as an IT manager, and designing network infrastructure and serving as network administrator for a local company. A self-described "computer geek," he also enjoys riding his Harley. He has two children, Sam and Liz.

Gregory Hall, '82 BS Education, retired from the FBI last year after more than 23 years as a special agent. Previously, he served in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division during the Vietnam War and the Cold War. He appeared as a military historian in a World War II documentary on the History Channel, *Rescue at Dawn: The Los Banos Raid*, and is the author of a novel, *Not Forgotten*, depicting the same event. He lives in Boulder City.

Dannette Trivisonno, '82 BS Business Administration, is vice president of investments for UBS Financial Services. Watching soccer is her hobby. Her son attends San Diego State University.

Michael Bagstad, '83 BS Engineering, '94 MS Engineering, has joined Klotz Associates as the department manager of the municipal services department with the public works practice. A registered professional engineer in Nevada, Arizona, and Texas, he has 30 years' experience in marketing, planning, design, and program management. He has worked on projects with the city of Houston, the Harris County Flood Control District, and the Fort Bend Toll Road Authority. He lives in Spring, Texas.

Gregory Goussak, '84 BS and '94 MS Hotel Administration, is an assistant professor in the MBA program at the University of Southern Nevada. He earned a doctoral degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix in 2009. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children, Ariel and Alyssa. The family lives in Henderson.

Paul Weinstein, '85 BA Communication Studies, is a regional contracts administrator for AT&T. He negotiates site license agreements for AT&T Antenna Solutions Group. His hobby is traveling to five-star resorts in Las Vegas. He lives in Chicago.

Amy Wills, '85 BS Special Education, '92 MA History, a 25-year veteran of the Clark County School District, is a special education facilitator in the special education management systems department. She is the daughter of the late **Paul Harris**, UNLV professor emeritus of theatre. Her son, **Geoffrey Gardner**, is now studying computer engineering and computer science at UNLV. Her daughter, Sandra Gardner, is a student at the school district's Virtual High School. She lists her hobbies as riding her Harley-Davidson, watching her children grow up, and being a huge alumni booster. The family lives in Henderson.

Kathleen Mills Crow, '86 BS Business Administration, works as an employment specialist. She recently became the first Kansan to receive Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) certification for people who provide employment services to people with disabilities. This nationally recognized certificate documents that the provider completed a minimum of 40 hours of training or professional development. She lives in Lenexa, Kan.

Ralph Gaddis, '86 AS Radiological Sciences, '91 BS Healthcare Administration, is a marketing professional in the health care IT industry. He was one of the first two students to receive a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration from UNLV. He said he and his fellow graduate recently "held a 20-year reunion on the telephone." His hobbies include hiking, skiing, and staying in touch with friends across the country. He lives in Centennial, Colo.

Carmen Henriquez Gigar, '87 BS Marketing, is chair of the Water Conservation Coalition for the Southern Nevada Water Authority. She also works as director of advertising and public relations for MetroPCS. The job has her finding ways to use new tactics that stretch her creative skills to generate brand awareness and sales. She is also a member of the UNLV Alumni Association Board of Directors. She is studying for her MBA at the University of Phoenix.

Association's app connects you to benefits

The UNLV Alumni Association is unveiling a mobile app to streamline communication with alumni and friends.

"We've found that the biggest challenge for recruiting new members is communicating the benefits of joining the association," said Heather Valera, an association member volunteer. "This app will make it easier for our alumni to get the most out of their membership with helpful tools, real-time updates, and more."

This new app will be available for free download on iPhone iOS 4.0 or later and Android version 2.2 or later. It will feature:

- Events calendar and news feeds, with push notifications and reminders
- Easy access to the alumni directory and to a new online community for alumni called Connect2
- In-app membership sign-ups and class notes submissions
- Benefits listing with map of places offering alumni discounts
- Electronic membership card

The app is currently in a testing phase. "You always hear, 'There's an app for that,'" said Valera. "Well now, there's an app to help you reap the rewards of being a Rebel."

Support a Rebel in the new business network

In today's tough economy, you can help fellow alumni by seeking out products and services through the Rebel Business Network. The Alumni Association launched the new online business directory this spring.

Each listing is customized by the member with contact information, products and services they offer, and any special discounts or promotions available to alumni. Search the directory for a variety of professionals in Southern Nevada and beyond. Since the directory is new, check back often to find new listings.

Listings are a benefit available to annual and lifetime members of the association.

More info: unlv.edu/alumni



Larry Fry, '88 BS Hotel Administration, a real estate agent for Remax Los Cabos, says he helps people secure their "dream property" in paradise. He also maintains his Utah real estate license, having spent 30 years in the ski resort business. He and his girlfriend, who operates a pet hotel, have two golden retrievers. They live in San Jose del Cabo, Mexico.

Danna Botwick Nordin, '88 BA Secondary Education, '94 MBA, is a senior human resources professional. She married Cary Nordin in 2008 and has a daughter, Lucy Botwick, a student at the College of Southern Nevada.

Dierdre "Dee" Riley, '88 AA, '07 BS and '10 MS Nursing, is a nursing instructor at Nevada State College. She is married with six children and two dachshunds. Her hobbies include gardening and scuba diving.

Karen French Avalos, '89 BA Secondary Education, retired from her job as an English teacher with the Clark County School District.

Jeff Grace, '89 BS Finance, reports that his company, NetEffect, ranked in the top 10 in the *In Business* Best Places to Work list for the second year in a row, moving to fourth place from eighth. He is the company's president and CEO.

1990s

Jay Coates Jr., '90 BS Biology, is an associate professor with the University of Nevada School of Medicine. He is program director for the surgical critical care fellowship and serves on the admissions committee. He also serves as vice chairman for the trauma department at University Medical Center, Nevada's only Level I trauma center, and was named medical director for the Lions Regional Burn Center at UMC.

Stephen Tremblay, '90 BS Radiological Sciences, teaches and performs as a diagnostic medical sonographer in the clinical arena for Scottsdale Healthcare and at Carington College. In 2010 he earned a master of education degree at Northern Arizona University. He lives in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Matt Engle, '91 BS Business Administration, graduated from the 10-month Leadership Las Vegas program of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce in June. The program is devoted to strengthening and educating community leaders by providing in-depth insights into a variety of issues impacting residents. He is the immediate past president of the UNLV Alumni Association. He led a 25-member board of directors with the key missions of connecting alumni to UNLV for life and being leaders in the community.

Dennis Gradillas, '91 BS Hotel Administration, is the executive director of Las Ventanas, an upscale active adult community and health center. Previously, he was general manager of the Platinum Hotel & Spa. He is president of the Hotel College Alumni Chapter Board of Directors and is a board member of the UNLV Alumni Association. He is the proud father of three children, Preston, Peyton, and Madison.

Rand Higbee, '91 MFA, wrote a play, *The Head That Wouldn't Die*, which was published by Eldridge Publishing Co. The play spoofs old, bad science fiction movies. It debuted at the 2007 Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Valdez, Alaska, and has been produced several times since, including once in the United Kingdom. He lives in Hager City, Wis.

Curtis Miller, '91 BA Hotel Administration, is director of sales and marketing at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center. He lives in Ankeny, Iowa.

Dawn Larsen Garner, '92 BA Art, '00 BS Interior Architecture, is a senior interior designer. She is working on the Hard Rock Hotel Tulsa at Worth Group Denver for the Cherokee Nation. Past experience includes work with Parker Scaggiari, Marnell Corrado Associates, MGM Mirage Design Group, and Scott Avjian. Her design projects included guest rooms, suites, and casino areas for the Bellagio as well as king rooms, tower suites, and corridors for the Mirage. Her hobbies include tennis and traveling. She lives in Fort Collins, Colo.

Larry Lee, '92 BS Business Administration, '96 MBA, is deputy director of the Washington State 529 Prepaid Tuition Plan. The fastest-growing plan of its kind in the nation, it is helping 135,000 students save for college. Married with two children, he earned a master of public administration degree from the University of Washington. His hobbies include scuba diving. He lives in Olympia.

Kimberly Stein, '92 BS Business Administration, '95 MBA, has joined the law firm of Howard & Howard. She earned her law degree from Boston University.

Suresh Vishnubhatla, '92 MS Electrical Engineering, is senior vice president and chief technology officer of Pharmacia Corp. He lives in Louisville, Ky.

Hank Hope, '93 BA Communication Studies, is a media manager for American Casino Entertainment Properties.

Nancy Banner, '94 BS Hotel Administration, is a classically trained chef. In her book, *Chef Nancy's Recipe for Health*, she advocates for moving from SAD, the standard American diet of processed foods,

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toward GLADD, her whole foods, anti-inflammatory, lifestyle diet. The book teaches eaters how to transition their meal choices to prevent and reverse disease with tasty recipes that are dairy-free, gluten-free, soy-free, and low-glycemic. She lives in Mesa, Ariz.

Shawn Danoski, '94 BS Architecture, and Bryce Clutts, '03 BS Business Administration, are the leaders of the full-service general contracting firm Danoski Clutts Building Group, which was founded in 2001. The firm announced the completion of Lick within the Shoppes at Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. The store offers a full selection of candies and sweets.

Ehab Ibrahim, '94 BS Hospitality Administration, is restaurant manager at the Wequassett Resort and Golf Club. He lives in Pompano Beach, Fla.

John Kotek, '94 BS Electrical Engineering, has been promoted to president of Lawyer Trane, Las Vegas, a leading commercial HVAC firm established more than 40 years ago. A company employee since 1995, he is spearheading the company's overall strategic corporate development. During his years with the firm he worked directly with building owners, consulting engineers, and mechanical contractors before moving into sales management and then general management.

Rick Arpin, '95 BS Business Administration, is senior vice president and corporate controller for MGM Resorts International. His hobbies include golf, reading, and traveling.

Sean DeFrank, '95 BA Communication Studies, is an associate editor at *Vegas Seven* magazine. His hobbies include sports, music, and travel. He and his wife, Melissa, live in Henderson.

Jennifer Hammett Francis, '95 BA Communication Studies, is an account director working in advertising, marketing, and communications for SK+G Advertising.

Alison Evans Boring, '96 BS Hotel Administration, is employed by Project Kindle as the director of Camp Kindle. She lives in Moorpark, Calif.

Lori Ciccone Brazfield, '96 BA Communication Studies, works as director of system-sponsored programs and EPSCoR for the Nevada System of Higher Education. She works with faculty and students on grants focusing on increasing research within the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and college access programs. She enjoys scrapbooking, reading, and taking family vacations. She and her

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husband, Symaron, have two sons, Christopher and Andrew.

Simaan Hawa, '96 BS Hotel Administration, is director of national accounts-West Coast for Pelican Hill. He lives in San Clemente, Calif.

Zane Marshall, '96 BA Environmental Studies, '06 MA Science, is director of the environmental resources department of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. He lives in Henderson.

Scott Mills, '96 BS Hotel Administration, started M Hospitality, a Beverly Hills-based, full-service hospitality consulting firm. Previously, he spent four years as general manager with the Viceroy Hotel Group and 11 years as an executive with Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. His hobbies include golf, wine, and travel. Married with one son, he lives in West Hollywood, Calif.

Robert Bonghi, '97 BS Business Administration, is post-harvest operations director for Andrew-Williamson Fresh Produce. He lives in Beaumont, Calif.

Anthony Llanos, '97 BS Hotel Administration, is controller at the Chancellor Hotel on Union Square in San Francisco.

Jiebing Wang, '97 PhD Physics, is vice president of central engineering for Exar. He lives in San Jose, Calif.

Rob Bone, '98 BS Business Administration, '00 MBA, was promoted to senior vice president of North American sales for WMS Industries, manufactures video and mechanical reel-spinning gaming machines, and video lottery terminals. He oversees day-to-day sales accountability and predictability, the sales implementation of new networked gaming applications, and efforts to increase customer touch points. A WMS employee since 2000, he has had primary responsibility for the company's key corporate accounts in Las Vegas and has managed the day-to-day operations of the more than 130-person Las Vegas office.

Robyn Lemon Chapman, '98 Bachelor of Music, is teaching music in kindergarten through eighth grades in Corvallis, Ore., as well as assisting with the Oregon State University marching band. She taught elementary school music in Snohomish, Wash. (2002-05) and middle school band in Las Vegas (1998-2002). She and her husband, **Christopher Chapman**, '98 Master of Music, have one daughter, Cecilia Noel. The family lives in Albany.

Mark Knoblauch, '98 MS Kinesiology, is a postdoctoral fellow at Taylor College of Medicine in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. He received a Ph.D. in kinesiology from the University of Houston in August.

Daniel Loring, '98 BS Hotel Administration, is chief operating officer



Brazfield, '96



Roth, '98



Prince, '99



Sway, '99 & '01



Manobianca, '01

of Honeydrop Beverages. He lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Erik Okland, '98 BS Business Administration, is an escrow officer with Inter Valley Escrow in Burbank, Calif. He has extensive experience in residential and commercial escrow transactions in the Los Angeles area. He lives in Glendale.

Jessica Perez, '98 BA Political Science, was the 2011 president of the Board of Bar Commissioners, the governing board of the New Mexico State Bar, and president of the Sandoval County Bar Association. She is employed as a field representative for U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., primarily handling health care issues. Previously, she worked as an assistant attorney general and as an analyst for the New Mexico State Senate. She was in practice for five years with her father and brother, both attorneys, and her mother, who served as their paralegal. A bar commissioner since 2003, she is past chair of the Personnel Committee and a member of the Bylaws and Policies, Annual Meeting Planning, Bench and Bar Relations, Finance, and Governmental Affairs committees. She and her husband, Al Park, have one daughter. The family lives in Bernalillo.

Victoria Richards, '98 MA Science, joined the faculty of the Frank H. Netter, M.D., School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut as an assistant professor of basic medical sciences. She will teach pharmacology as well as develop curriculum. Quinnipiac has begun the accreditation process necessary to establish a medical school with an emphasis on primary care and plans to enroll its charter class by fall 2013. Previously, she served as an assistant professor of pharmacology at the A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. She lives in North Haven.

Jason Roth, '98 BA Communication Studies, graduated with an MBA from the University of Southern Nevada (USN) in June. In July he was promoted to vice president of communications and public relations at Roseman University of Health Sciences. The USN became Roseman University of Health Sciences on July 1. He lives in Henderson.

Chris Smith, '98 BS Hotel Administration, was promoted to director for corporate human resources at Caesars Entertainment. His previous positions included manager of human resources and director of training and development for Caesars Entertainment. He serves as vice president for the Hotel College Alumni Chapter Board of Directors.

Nicholas Anderson, '99 BA Communication Studies, has worked in marketing with a high-tech security company for the past nine years. He has traveled extensively, visiting Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Costa Rica, and Argentina. In 2012 he expects to visit Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina. His hobbies also include blogging, thrill seeking, golf, and developing entrepreneurial ideas. He lives in Newport Beach, Calif.

Chad Belding, '99 BS Business Administration, started his second hunting-related television show, *Dead Dog Walkin'*, which, along with his first show, *The Fowl Life*, airs on the Sportsman Channel and Wild TV. *The Fowl Life* combines heart-pounding hunting action with in-depth instruction. In the new show, he and his team hunt coyotes and other predators that are threatening domestic sheep and cattle herds. His company, Banded Nation, encompasses several ventures, including Banded Gear, Last Call Ringtones, Banded Hunts, Banded Calls, Banded Retrievers, and Banded University. He has won national competitions in duck and goose calling. A former Rebel baseball player, he lives with his wife, Melanie, and their daughter, Alyssa, in Reno.

Roni Benenson de Sterin, '99 BS Hotel Administration, opened up The Pitch Factory, a small marketing consultancy agency providing integrated marketing solutions in English, Spanish, and Hebrew. The company takes clients from idea to execution, no matter how small or big the concept. The Pitch Factory assists its clients with a variety of projects, including marketing deliverables, branding, and strategy. She previously worked as a marketing communication director. She lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Sarah Harmon, '99 BS Business Administration, was promoted to partner of the Las Vegas law firm of Bailey Kennedy, where she's worked for five years in civil litigation of class actions, product defects, tobacco cases, business torts, and commercial and corporate law. Previously, she was an associate with Lionel Sawyer & Collins. She also is on the editorial staff of the Nevada Civil Practice Manual. She earned her law degree at the University of San Diego.

Richard Kimbrough, '99 BA Communication Studies, was named chief development officer for the Mayo Clinic Health System in southwestern Minnesota. He lives in North Mankato.

Charles "Mike" Prince, '99 BA Elementary Education, is a rancher and middle school teacher. He authored

Toquop the Warrior Stallion, which won the Will Rogers Medallion for best Western novel for juveniles and young adults in 2008. He and his wife, Alma, have been married for more than 50 years. He enjoys farming, raising beef cattle, and working with 4-H youths. He lives in Alamo.

Eric Sway, '99 BA Communication Studies, is sales manager at General Steel Corp. in Cleveland. He coaches soccer, basketball, and baseball for children in second through fourth grades. His hobbies include traveling, serving on his neighborhood homeowners association board, gardening, and attending professional sporting events. He and his wife, **Stacey Appiano Sway**, '01 BS Business Administration, met while living in the UNLV residence halls. They have a son, Andrew. The family lives in Streetsboro.

Todd Weinstein, '99 BS Hotel Administration, is the director of leadership development at PetSmart. His responsibilities include leadership development strategy, programs and processes, individual and team coaching, and other efforts around building organizational effectiveness. He lives in Phoenix.

2000s

Melinda Simpson Chaney, '00 BA Communication Studies, is a State Farm agent and owner. She enjoys running, tennis, reading, traveling, and speaking at school career day events. A wife and mother of three daughters, she lives in Richardson, Texas.

Travis Huxman, '00 PhD Biological Sciences, is a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona. He is the director of UA Biosphere 2, the earth science facility focused on water and energy research and public science literacy; director of UA Science: Flandrau, the university's science outreach portal and museum; and co-director of the Arizona Center for STEM teachers, which focuses on teacher training, retention, and curriculum development. He lives in Tucson.

Adam Lopez, '00 BS Hotel Management, is a project manager with Bally Technologies. He works in marketing and tradeshow events. His hobbies include working out at the gym, biking, hiking, and traveling. He and his wife had twins, Sicily and Tyler, on June 8. The family lives in North Las Vegas.

Jason Thompson, '00 BS Business Administration, '04 MBA, is community development director for Focus Property Group.

Zachary Smith, '00 Master of Science Kinesiology, '07 PhD Educational Leadership, has written a book, *Making the Case for Leadership: Profiles of Chief Advancement Officers in Higher Education*, which was published in January. It profiles 10 of the most successful chief advancement officers from universities such as Michigan and Johns Hopkins. He serves as assistant vice chancellor of development at the University of California, Riverside.

Michelle Sposito Atkinson, '01 BA Communication Studies, is a staff attorney in the Ohio department of education, office of professional conduct. She lives in Dublin.

Robert Bachilla, '01 BS Physics, is a quality engineer and lead metrologist for ITT Corp. Working in the defense sector, he uses state-of-the-art equipment to make precision measurements. He also uses CAD and writes technical reports. Previously, he worked in the aerospace industry in Seattle. He earned a master's degree in physics from the University of Washington. His hobbies include yoga and cycling. He lives in Salt Lake City.

Phillip Dart, '01 BS Workforce Education, is an employment and training coordinator for Experience Works. He lives in Bedford, Ind.

Josh Hudson, '01 BA Communication Studies, is a faculty member at the Art Institute of Las Vegas. Currently, he is directing and editing *This the Face of Autism* for Hudson House Films. He also is editing two feature documentaries. He has three sons.

Stacy Grasso Manobianca, '01 BA Psychology, is an attorney in the litigation department of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis. She was re-elected chair of the Young Lawyers Division of the Essex (N.J.) County Bar Association in May. She recently moderated two continuing legal education seminars for the association, "Business & Trust Accounting for Lawyers" and "Civil Trial Preparation." Additionally, she was included in Super Lawyers - Rising Stars Edition 2011 by *Super Lawyers* magazine. She focuses on complex product liability litigation involving motor vehicle manufacturers, premises liability, and asbestos litigation. A member of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association, she earned her law degree at Seton Hall University. She lives Elmwood Park.

Cara Minardi, '01 BA and '05 MA English, works as an assistant professor at Georgia Gwinnett College. She completed her PhD in English (rhetoric and composition) at Georgia State University in May. She lives in Decatur.

Lisa Montes, '01 BA Psychology, works in the food and beverage department at Wynn Resorts.

Pin Tan, '01 BS Computer Science, is an intellectual property attorney with Weide & Miller. He also is working on an iPhone application called Momentous.

MEET THE REGENTS

This is part of a series of articles to introduce Nevada readers to their elected higher education officials. For more information on the Nevada System of Higher Education, visit system.nevada.edu.



Jason Geddes,
District 11
Since 2006

The Board of Regents must demonstrate the value of higher education to the state and to its citizens if it wants them to invest in higher education, says Geddes, who chairs the board. And then, the board must show them the results of their investment.

Geddes says his time on the board “has strengthened my opinion that the future of Nevada and its economy is centered around higher education and building intellectual capital.

“I believe we will have to become less dependent on state funds, align the priorities of the system with the priorities of the state, and focus our limited resources on those.”

Geddes, who is environmental services administrator for the city of Reno, says, “I bring an analytical approach to working on board problems and a scientific background that can help our research priorities. I also bring experience in working with the board and the Legislature as I served a term in the Assembly and have been working on issues with the board on and off since the late ‘80s.”



Jack Lund Schofield
District 5
Since 2002

A former fighter-bomber pilot with the U.S. Army Air Force, Schofield served one term as vice chair of the Board of Regents and currently serves as vice chair of the Academic, Research & Student Affairs Committee. He also is a member of the Cultural Diversity and Investment & Facilities committees.

A real estate entrepreneur, Schofield is CEO of Exclusive Homes & Products and president of JS Development. Previously, he served as a

Nevada state senator and assemblyman and as a school administrator.

The longtime educator earned his most recent degree — a doctoral degree in education — from UNLV in 1995 at the age of 72. In 1949 he earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Utah, followed by a master of education degree from UNR in 1967.

The Clark County School District named Jack Lund Schofield Middle School after him in 2001

Married for 69 years, he has six children, 33 grandchildren, and 48 great-grandchildren.



Michael Wixom
District 6
Since 2005

Higher education is vital to the economic and social well-being of Nevada, Wixom says.

“For our state to succeed, we need K-12

and higher education to become a seamless, cohesive system that encourages both high school graduation and college graduation for all Nevada students.”

Asked how he balances that vision with current budget realities, Wixom replies, “We save money when we keep students in school and when students graduate from high school and college.

“It is much more expensive to remediate students who are not ready for college,” he says. “Experience shows that it is also much more expensive to deal with the consequences of our failure to educate our students than it is to educate them well in the first place.”

A lawyer in Las Vegas since 1986, Wixom has several suggestions for meeting the budget challenge, including:

- using variable tuition for high-cost programs.
- giving institutions more flexibility in rolling budget savings over from year to year.
- having the flexibility to move line-item budget savings from one budget column to another between legislative sessions.

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Rachel Choudhury, '02 BS Nursing, is curriculum dean at Chamberlain College of Nursing, where she has been a faculty member for six years. “In my career as a nursing educator, I think about my experiences at UNLV and how much I grew as a person because of the nurse educators who were such great role models,” she said, describing UNLV’s nursing faculty as “knowledgeable, professional, and approachable.” She is grateful for the Lahr Foundation Scholarship she had while at UNLV. She is pursuing a PhD in nursing education at Capella University. She and her husband, Fayyaz, have one daughter, Zaiba. The family lives in Columbus, Ohio.

Marion Smith, '02 BS Secondary Education, is assistant principal of Madrona K-8 with the Seattle Public Schools. Previously, he was the founding director of culture at Young Scholars Frederick Douglass, K-8 turnaround school in North Philadelphia, Pa. His career began in Las Vegas where he worked for the Clark County School District for nine years, serving as a middle school dean of students, a high school English teacher, and a middle school English/language arts teacher.

Adam Villarreal, '02 BS Physics and BA Psychology, is a senior research scientist for Lockheed Martin. He lives in Avondale, Ariz.

Mehmet Erdem, '03 PhD Hotel Administration, was promoted to associate professor in UNLV’s College of Hotel Administration and has received tenure. In recognition of his creative use of technology in the classroom, he received the annual Innovation in Teaching Award from the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education, making him the second UNLV faculty member to receive the award since it was established in 1993. Previously, he was an assistant professor in the school of Hotel Administration at the University of New Orleans. He lives in Henderson.

Janie Lade, '03 Master of Education, is a licensed school counselor and a national certified counselor working with at-risk students. Her model for providing services is to look first at the student’s personal and social skills followed by academic and career development. She helps students and parents cope with depression, anxiety, drug abuse, anger management, and other mental issues that overwhelm students and keep them from focusing on academics. Her philosophy is that when the man is together, so is his world. She earned her doctorate in leadership and administration at the University of Phoenix. She enjoys water activities, traveling, reading, and family time. She lives in Kannapolis, N.C.

Hwabong Lee, '03 MS Hospitality Management, is a tradeshow organizer

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and exhibition coordinator for COEX. He has eight years of experience organizing tradeshows in Korea and Vietnam. His hobby is driving classic cars. He lives in Seoul, Korea.

Laura Stanzione, '03 BA Communication Studies, received a master of arts in teaching degree in elementary education from Anderson University. She works as a tutor for Ortin-Gillingham. She is the mother of one son and lives in Anderson, S.C.

Tony Timmons, '03 BS Business Administration, was named head of Wells Fargo's Nevada regional banking communications team.

Camilla Brunold, '04 BS Hotel Administration, works at Animal House, a full-service pet store. She assists clients and helps with administrative tasks. She has two daughters, Tiffany and Kristen. She enjoys spending time with her family and with her cat, Cupid; working jigsaw puzzles; watching movies; and reading. She lives in Pahrump.

Adam Bult, '04 JD, was elected a shareholder in the Las Vegas office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. He is a member of the litigation department with a practice focusing on commercial and construction litigation. His clients range from subcontractors and suppliers to owners and public entities, for which his involvement has spanned lien claims and \$100 million construction disputes. He also renders pro bono counsel and direct financial assistance to Las Vegas nonprofit organizations such as Golden Rainbow, which provides housing assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS. He serves on the Advertising Advisory and Diversity committees of the Nevada State Bar Association. He is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Las Vegas.

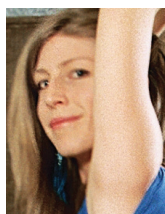
Adam Gordon, '04 BS Hotel Administration, joined the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority as a sales executive. Previously, he was a national sales manager with Green Valley Ranch, worked at Caesars Entertainment, and was part of the opening team at the MGM Resorts CityCenter project. He is a member of the Hotel College Alumni Chapter Board of Directors.

Timothy Rainey, '04 BA Communication Studies, is director of programming as well as afternoon radio host for WNOU, RadioNOW 100.9 in Indianapolis. He broadcasts under the pseudonym "Rayne." He has won numerous awards, including the 2007 and 2009 Major Market Top 40 Program Director of the Year Award from the Street Information Network. He enjoys traveling and volunteering with local charities.

Jennifer Hartwick, '05 BA Interdisciplinary Studies, is the director of recruitment for the Greenspun family



Bult, '04



Blanco, '08



Carney, '08



Green, '08



Schoen, '08



Thewes, '11

of companies, including Vegas.com, Greenspun Media Group, and the America Nevada Co. Previously, she spent 12 years with a global consulting firm focused on the recruitment of IT professionals. She is married and has two young sons.

Phyllis Hedges, '05 BA Criminal Justice, enjoys walking and taking care of her pets — five cats and one dog.

Fred Meyer, '05 BA and '10 MA Criminal Justice, is a sergeant with the detention services division of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. He enjoys spending time with family, golfing, and fishing. He and his wife, Tracy, have two children, Caitlyn and Ethan. The family lives in Henderson.

Elio Montes, '05 BA Economics, works as CEO of the start-up Digital TV Cable in Bolivia. It is a cable television company and Internet service provider. His hobbies include photography and trekking. He and his wife, Fatima Rivas, have two children. The family lives in Santa Cruz de La Sierra.

Gina-Marie Nissen, '05 BA Journalism and Media Studies, married **Jonathan Strong**, '08 BS Culinary Arts Management, in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. She works as marketing manager at Medco Health Solutions. He is a restaurant manager at Wynn Las Vegas.

Christopher Dayley, '06 Bachelor of Social Work, '09 Master of Education, is student services coordinator for Utah State University. He lives in Logan.

Junilla Kershner, '06 BA Criminal Justice, was appointed to a one-year term on the Taskforce on Outreach to Young Lawyers by the Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice section of the American Bar Association. She will work on outreach efforts to young lawyers throughout the nation. An attorney with Fowler White Burnett, she practices insurance defense. She is a member of various professional organizations, including the Florida Bar, the Dade County Bar Association, and the Cuban American Bar Association. She lives in Miami.

Dana Reitz Covotsos, '07 BS Hotel Administration, is a human resources

manager for Walmart. She lives in New Lenox, Ill.

Adrian Huerta, '07 BS Human Services Counseling, is pursuing a doctoral degree in education at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on the social and academic experiences of underrepresented student populations in postsecondary institutions. Previously, he served as the assistant director of the McNair Scholars Program at the University of Southern California. He and his partner, Kristan, have a daughter, Felicia. They live in El Monte.

PJ Perez, '07 BA Journalism and Media Studies, reports that his alt-rock band, As Yet Unbroken, just released its first full-length album, *Unbroken*.

Samantha Stewart, '07 BA Journalism and Media Studies, is a senior content coordinator and copywriter for Zappos.com. She lives in Henderson.

Denise Balfour, '08 Master of Education, is assistant director of the office of student conduct & academic integrity at Old Dominion University. She lives in Norfolk, Va.

Yolanda Tuttle-Williams, '07 BS Hotel Administration, graduated from George Washington University with a master's degree in tourism administration in May 2011. She works part-time as a travel consultant in Athens, Ga. She is looking forward to moving back to the Southwest.

Cynthia Blanco, '08 BS Kinesiological Sciences, teaches ballet, Pilates, and yoga. She focuses on physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health and learning. She is starting a dance/yoga company. Hobbies include hiking, rock climbing, swimming, doing personal growth work, reading, and inspiring people. She lives in Englewood, Colo.

Katie Carney, '08 Bachelor of Journalism and Media Studies, is a production coordinator for King and Country Productions. She enjoys shopping, eating sushi, and hanging out with friends. She lives in West Hollywood, Calif.

Michael Gordon, '08 Master of Public Administration, is president of the

UNLV Graduate & Professional Student Association for 2011-12.

John Green, '08 PhD Civil Engineering, married Margaux Byrne on Oct. 9, 2010. Following their wedding at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Naperville, Ill., they honeymooned in Kauai, Hawaii. He is senior rail civil engineer and lead track designer—North America for Halcrow Inc. in its Chicago office. The couple lives in Naperville.

Daniel McCue, '08 MA Journalism and Media Studies, launched Organic Local Social Media, a company specializing in helping businesses deepen customer relationships through social media. His second child, Johanna Verlyn McCue, was born in September. He lives in Grinnell, Iowa.

Jacob D. Montoya, '08 BS Hotel Administration, is the assistant housekeeping manager at Gila River Casinos in Chandler, Ariz.

Jason Roth, '08 BS Hotel Administration, is a catering & conference manager at The Venetian | The Palazzo Hotel. He specializes in social, public relations, and government relation events. It is the largest resort convention facility in the world with over 2.2 million square feet of meeting space. He previously worked as assistant director for alumni special events & student involvement at UNLV.

Derek Schoen, '08 BA Journalism & Media Studies, was promoted to Internet marketing manager. He oversees all social media and online marketing efforts for ARIA Resort & Casino, Vdara Hotel & Spa, and CityCenter. He has worked at CityCenter for two years. He is married to **Courtney Edelman Schoen**, '08 BA Education. The couple has two new puppies.

Jonathan Smith, '08 BS Gaming Management, is a senior slot analyst with the Wynn and Encore Las Vegas. Previously, he was an analyst with Bally Technologies. He earned a master's degree in hospitality management from Drexel University.

Justin Dacek, '09 BS University Studies, is a video production technician for UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center and for the Las Vegas 51s baseball team. He lives in Henderson.

Gordon Goolsby, '09 JD Law, is an associate with the law firm of Armstrong Teasdale, where he is part of the financial services practice group. He counsels clients about bankruptcy, distressed loans, and loan transactions. He represents both corporate debtors and creditors as well as committees. He lives in Henderson.

Justin Hebblethwaite, '09 BS Culinary Arts Management, is a food service director for Aramark. He lives in Fremont, Calif.

Lindsay Smith, '09 BA Interdisciplinary Studies, is attending law school at the University of Kansas. She lives in Lawrence.

Matthew Muldoon, '09 MS Hotel Administration, is chief development officer for Three Square, the Southern Nevada food bank. He works closely with the CEO, board of trustees, and various committees to develop and implement a comprehensive fundraising strategy for Three Square. He supervises the marketing director, donor relations manager, director of corporate giving, director of individual giving, and grant writers.

2010s

Cassidee Shinn, '10 BS Biological Sciences, is pursuing a master's degree at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She works at a nonprofit agency dealing with forest conservation issues. Hobbies include hiking, swimming, reading, painting, surfing, snorkeling, and traveling.

Joanna Myers, '10 JD, has joined Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck as an associate with the corporate and business group and focuses on intellectual property. Previously, she was an associate attorney for Greenberg Traurig and assisted in the creation and operations management of three family businesses in the forensic sciences industry. She also was a quality specialist for United Blood Services in Las Vegas, auditing blood collection and product manufacturing processes for compliance with federal regulations.

Jeffrey Walker, '10 Master of Public Administration, is a northern region emergency planner for the Virginia department of health. He coordinates preparedness and response activities for the department in its national capitol region. He lives in Herndon, Va.

Guan Wang, '10 MBA, is an energy marketing analyst with NV Energy. His hobbies include movies, hiking, and food.

Belinda Johnson, '11 BS Human Services Counseling, is interning in the field of human services/counseling. She also does volunteer work in that field. Her hobbies include community service work and church-related activities. The U.S. Army veteran lives in North Las Vegas.

Judy Nagai, '11 PhD Educational Leadership, is assistant dean for development and external relations for the Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Davis. She leads the fundraising, marketing, and alumni relations team. While working at UNLV, she established the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration alumni relations program in 2002 and served as director of external relations until fall 2011.

Alysson Thewes, '11 Master of Social Work, spent time traveling after graduation before beginning to look for her dream job. Her hobbies include going on trail rides with her horse, reading,



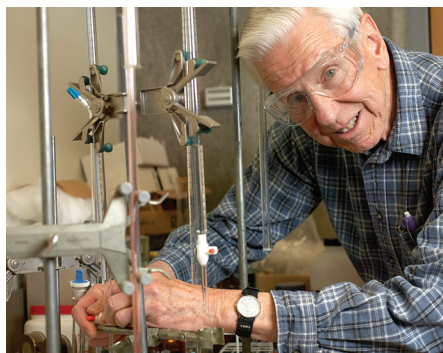
OBITUARIES

Bert Babero, emeritus professor of zoology, died Feb. 15. He taught at UNLV for 23 years, joining the university when it still was known as Nevada Southern. An internationally known parasitologist, he identified 21 never-before described species. He also taught at Baghdad University in Iraq, Fort Valley State College, Southern University, and Grambling State University. He was named a member of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission in 1967 and the NAACP Las Vegas chapter's 1968 Man of the Year. While serving as a U.S. Army medic during World War II, he protested discriminatory practices in the armed forces. Some of his letters are quoted in the book *Taps for a Jim Crow Army*. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Harriett; son, Bert Jr.; and granddaughter, Jamileh Juanita.

Richard Brooks, emeritus professor of anthropology, died June 23. He taught at UNLV from 1966 to 1994. He pioneered the creation of the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History and served as its director. He also was director of the Desert Research Institute and cofounded Archeo-Nevada in Las Vegas and the Nevada Archaeological Association. He was the widower of anthropologist **Sheilagh Brooks**, UNLV's first distinguished professor, who died in 2008. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Carolyn Brooks-Harris. Survivors include daughter Kathleen Brooks and granddaughters Sheilagh Polk and Genevieve Brooks-Harris.

David Emerson, former dean and emeritus professor of chemistry, died Jan. 12. He came to UNLV in 1981 as dean of what then was the College of Math, Science, and Engineering. He was instrumental in creating the College of Engineering. Later he served as dean of the College of Sciences. He retired in 1998. The UNLV Emerson Medal, which the College of Sciences awards to individuals who have made distinguished and lasting contributions to the sciences, is named in his honor. A U.S. Army veteran, he served in World War II and the Korean War. He is survived by Shirley, his wife of 57 years; three children, Richard, Eric, and Ellen; and seven grandchildren.

Anthony Ferri, professor of journalism and media studies, died June 15. A faculty member since 1985, he served as general manager of KUNV, the university's public radio station and as associate director of the Greenspun School of Communication. He was honored as Outstanding UNLV Faculty Member by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents and as the Rita Deanin Abbey Teacher of the Year. One of his proudest accomplishments was participating in the graduation of his daughter,



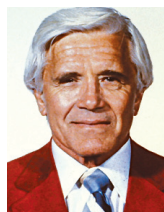
Emerson in his lab, 2008



Babero



Ferri



Knap

Theresa Ferri, '11 BA Psychology. Other survivors include son Steven, brother Tom, and sister Gina.

William Hilkert III, '76 BA Theatre, died December 26. He was an actor in New York, appearing in films as well as on stage and on television. He traveled to Spain as part of an actor exchange program. He is survived by a daughter, Davina Lynch.

Cathie Kelly, professor of art, died Feb. 26. The Pittsburgh native joined the UNLV faculty in 1980 after receiving her doctoral degree in art history from Pennsylvania State University where she studied with professor Hellmut Hager. Her specialty was Italian Renaissance and Baroque art and architecture. Her research interests were centered in Italy, particularly Rome and Florence. In 1993 she received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from UNLV's College of Fine Arts. She was involved in historic preservation in the Las Vegas Valley, served on the Nevada State Board of Museums, and was a founding member of the Board of Trustees of the Neon Museum. She is survived by her stepbrother, Robert Kelly, and by several nieces and nephews.

Tony Knap, the "winningest" coach in UNLV football history, died Sept. 24. Nicknamed the "Silver Fox," he came from Boise State in 1976 and won more games than anyone in school history with a record of 47-20-2 over six seasons. He led the Rebels to an NCAA Division II playoff appearance, through the move to the Division I level in 1978, and to a stunning road upset of No. 8 BYU in 1981, his final season. His coaching record was 143-53-4 in 18 seasons. He signed quarterback Randall Cunningham, who was a redshirt freshman under Knap and eventually played 16 seasons in the National Football League. The Milwaukee native was inducted into the UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame in 2004. Survivors include Mickey, his wife of 70 years, and daughters Jacki Knap Wright, Angie Nelson, and Caroline Smith.

Agnes Lockette, emerita professor of curriculum and instruction, died June 5. She taught at UNLV from 1972 until 1984. Before that she taught for the Clark County School District at Westside and Sewell elementary schools. Among her publications were *The Preliminary Design for the Pre-School Handicapped Early Childhood and Playing, Experiencing and Growing in Language Arts*. She was the first woman appointed to the Clark County Pollution Board. In 1973 she chaired the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County. Survivors include daughter Sharon Matricciano, son Emory Lockette Jr., and grandson Chris Matricciano.

Ellen Cronan Rose, retired director of women's studies, died Oct. 10. A faculty member from 1994 until 2002, she oversaw the transition of women's studies from an interdisciplinary program to an academic department. She inspired research on gender and feminist scholarship, supported women in academe, and brought the National Women's Studies Association to Las Vegas. Co-editor of the *Journal of Modern Literature*, she also taught at Dartmouth and Haverford colleges, Drexel University, and MIT. A devoted "Phillies Phan," she moved back to her hometown of Philadelphia upon retirement. She is survived by three children, Emily Rose Hoffman, Amanda Rose, and Barnabas Rose, and two grandchildren, Madeleine Hoffman and Mason Hoffman.

Anthony Saville, emeritus dean and professor of education, died June 28. His UNLV career spanned 1967-1998. He was the founding dean of the College of Education, a role he maintained for 11 years. An expert in stress, conflict, and time management, he served as a consultant to schools systems throughout the nation. He was honored by the Clark County School District with the creation of Anthony Saville Middle School. Among his many awards were the 2001 Distinguished Nevada Award by the Board of Regents, the UNLV Foundation Award for Outstanding Graduate Faculty in 1996, the Alumni Award for Distinguished Faculty in 1995, and the Spanos Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1990. Survivors include Joy, his wife of 56 years.

"The good Lord must be trying to get a Runnin' Rebels team up there."

— Former Rebel basketball player **Sam Smith** (1976-77) commenting in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* on the deaths of former teammates Armon Gilliam and Curtis Watson

Lewis Brown, a former Runnin' Rebel, died Sept. 14. Known as "Big Lew," Brown ranked No. 20 in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal's* 2010 list of the top 100 Rebels. Part of UNLV's first Final Four team, known as the "Hardway Eight," he played on the team from 1973 to 1977. He is No. 2 in career rebounds (1,019) and 18th in points (1,289). He was drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks in 1977. He played just two NBA games, both for the Washington Bullets in 1981. He also played in France and the Philippines. Survivors include his mother, Betty, and sisters Anita Brown Campbell and Jeri Brown.

Armon Gilliam, '88 BA Communication Studies, a Runnin' Rebel Hall of Famer, died July 5. Known as "The Hammer," Gilliam played at UNLV from 1984 to 1987 and was a key

member of UNLV's second NCAA Final Four team in 1987. In 2007, his No. 35 basketball jersey was retired during a halftime ceremony at the Thomas & Mack Center, making him the eighth player to be so honored. He is seventh on the all-time UNLV career scoring list with 1,855 points and holds the school record for most points in a season with 903 and most field goals made in a season with 359. In 1987 he was the Big West Conference Player of the Year and was named an All-American selection. He was the second pick in the 1987 NBA draft and played in the league for 13 seasons with six teams. Jerry Tarkanian, who coached Gilliam at UNLV, said, "He was one of the greatest Rebels ever and one of the best players we ever had. In my ratings, I had Larry Johnson No. 1 and Armon No. 2." Survivors include his parents, the

Rev. James and Alma Gilliam; children, Cheryl, Jeremiah, and Joshua; grandchild Khalih Moses; and siblings Galan, Jerrel, and Javan.

Larry Moffett, a former Runnin' Rebel, died May 2. He was a member of 1977's "Hardway Eight" team, the first men's team to reach the Final Four. He averaged 8 points and 9.2 rebounds and shot 54.2 percent from the field in his only season with the Rebels. Former coach Jerry Tarkanian was quoted in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* as saying, "If Moffett didn't break his nose in the second half, we would have beat North Carolina in the Final Four. I went without a big man. He was a great shot blocker. He's the one who made it a great team." In its 2010 ranking of the top 100 Runnin' Rebels, the newspaper placed Moffett

at No. 53. He played one season in the NBA after being drafted in the second round by the Houston Rockets. He later played in France, Spain, and Belgium. Survivors include an aunt, an uncle, and four cousins.

Curtis Watson, '70 BS Business Administration, a former Runnin' Rebel, died July 11. He played from 1967 to 1969, scoring 963 points. In 2010, he was listed as No. 58 in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal's* top 100 Runnin' Rebels. In 1992 he was inducted into the UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the 1967-68 men's team. During his first year at UNLV he was voted Most Valuable Player on the NCAA College Division Regional All-Tournament Team. In 1968-69 he was named to the Associated Press All-American Team. He scored a career-high 39 points on March 2, 1969. In 1973, he opened a State Farm Insurance agency, making him the first African-American insurance agent in Southern Nevada. He retired from State Farm after more than 37 years. Survivors include his wife, Wilma; daughter Tamara Watson-Dove; son Bryan Watson; grandchildren Rachel Watson, Halle Watson, and Jalen Dove; and brothers Marshall, James, and Roy.

Building in Motion

The architects behind Robert L. Bigelow Physics Building must have had a fondness for science (or perhaps were crafty pitchmen who knew how to appeal to professors). The building's swooping roofline and landscape features weren't mere flourishes; they represent principles of science. A glass wall facing the courtyard offers both filtered daylight and an homage to a sine wave. An apple tree pays tribute to Newton's theory of gravity while the roofline over the labs mimics the Quonset huts in which the developers of the atomic bomb worked during World War II. The light spectrum is represented in colorful banners hanging inside and the Big Bang theory in the concentric circles radiating out from where the building's two wings meet.

The building is named for the father of donor Robert T. Bigelow, owner of Budget Suites of America and Bigelow Aerospace. The other Bigelow building on campus — Health Sciences — was named for his son, Rod Lee, who died at age 25. [Photo by Aaron Mayes]



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